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BY

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

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*WITH ILLUSTRATIONS, NOTES, AND A
VOCABULARY*



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MR. REMINGTON'S ILLUSTRATIONS.

THE illustrations in this book are taken from the superb Holiday edition of *Hiawatha*, published in 1892, and richly illustrated by Frederic Remington, who during the last decade has placed himself in the foremost rank of illustrators of Western scenes.

No man is better qualified to depict Indian life than Mr. Remington. Several years' residence in the West, — during which he employed himself as cowboy, scout, and guide, — together with extensive travel, not only in the Western regions of the United States, but also in Mexico and British America, have given him unexcelled opportunities for studying the American Indians who yet remain, and have opened to him the traditions of their former haunts. His own genuine love of wild out-door life has enabled him to interpret with rare feeling and sympathy the savage lore of which he has possessed himself. He is a close and accurate observer of actual conditions, yet he is not too much a realist to enter into Longfellow's poetical conception of the Indian legends, and to give us pictures sufficiently imaginative to suit the poem.

We quote from the Introductory Note of the Holiday edition : —

“ The full-page illustrations are designed by Mr. Remington to serve directly as accompaniments to the poem, and he has followed the poet in using a certain freedom of treatment. For as Mr. Longfellow was more careful of the Indian type than exact in a consistent portraiture of one personage, and used his imagination to emphasize the cen-

tral truths of his poetic interpretation of Indian life, rather than sought to follow scrupulously the lines of the archæologist, so the artist, reading the poem, has made a series of pictures which have a basis of reality from his long and close study of the Indian in many situations, but sometimes are fanciful in their treatment. Mr. Longfellow made Indian pictures in verse and Mr. Remington has made Indian pictures in design, studying to make them correspond in spirit with the poet's conception, but not attempting to square the poet's description with the actual realities of Indian life as he knows it by observation.

"The pen-and-ink drawings¹ . . . are, on the other hand, faithful representations of a large number of actual objects in use among Indian tribes, or associated with their life. . . . The artist has drawn both from his own large accumulation of material obtained in observations made during frequent intercourse with Indian tribes, and from a diligent study of objects as stored in museums or pictured by trustworthy artists."

¹ Some of which are given in the Appendix.

THE SONG OF HIAWATHA.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

The Song of Hiawatha was first published in November, 1855. The general purpose to make use of Indian material appears to have been in the poet's mind for some time, but the conception as finally wrought was formed in the summer of 1854. He writes in his diary under date of June 22, "I have at length hit upon a plan for a poem on the American Indians, which seems to me the right one and the only. It is to weave together their beautiful traditions into a whole. I have hit upon a measure, too, which I think the right and only one for such a theme." A few days before, he had been reading with great delight the Finnish epic *Kalevala*, and this poem suggested the measure and may well have reminded him also of the Indian legends, which have that likeness to the Finnish that springs from a common intellectual stage of development and a general community of habits and occupation.

An interest in the Indians had long been felt by Mr. Longfellow, and in his early plans for prose sketches tales about the Indians had a place. He had seen a few of the straggling remainder of the Algonquins in Maine, and had read Heckewelder while in college; had witnessed the display of Black Hawk and his Sacs and Foxes on Boston Common; and, a few years before, had made the acquaintance of the fine-tempered Kah-ge-ga-gah'bowh, the Ojibway chief, and had entertained him at his house, trusting not

unlikely that he might derive from the Indian some helpful suggestion.

No sooner had his floating ideas of a work taken shape than he was eager to put his plans into execution. "I could not help, this evening," he wrote June 25, "making a beginning of *Manabozho*, or whatever the poem is to be called. His adventures will form the theme, at all events;" and the next day: "Look over Schoolcraft's great book on the Indians; three huge quartos, ill-digested, and without any index. Write a few lines of the poem." His authority for the legends and the material generally of his poem was in the main Schoolcraft's work, with probably the same author's more literary composition *Algic Researches*, and Heckewelder's narrative. He soon took Manabozho's other and more euphonic name, Hiawatha, into his service, and gave himself up to a thorough enjoyment of the task. "Worked at *Hiawatha*," he wrote on the 31st of the month, "as I do more or less every day. It is purely in the realm of fancy. After tea, read to the boys the Indian story of *The Red Swan*." "*Hiawatha*," he wrote again in October, "occupies and delights me. Have I no misgivings about it? Yes, sometimes. Then the theme seizes me and hurries me away, and they vanish." His misgivings took a concrete shape a few days later, when he read aloud to a friend some pages of his work. "He fears the poem will want human interest. So does F. [his wife]. So does the author. I must put a live, beating heart into it."

Mr. Longfellow began writing *Hiawatha*, as we have seen, June 25, 1854. It was finished March 29, 1855, and published November 10. It is doubtful if the poet wrote any of his longer works with more abandonment, with more thorough enjoyment of his task, with a keener sense of the originality of his venture, and by consequence, with more perplexity when he thought of his readers. He tried the poem on his friends more freely than had been customary with him, and with varied results. His own mind, as he

neared the test of publication, wavered a little in its moods. "Proof sheets of *Hiawatha*," he wrote in June, 1855. "I am growing idiotic about this song, and no longer know whether it is good or bad;" and later still: "In great doubt about a canto of *Hiawatha*,—whether to retain or suppress it. It is odd how confused one's mind becomes about such matters from long looking at the same subject."

No sooner was the poem published than its popularity was assured, and it was subjected to the most searching tests. It was read by public readers to large audiences, and a few years later was set to music by Stoepel and given at the Boston Theatre with explanatory readings by Matilda Heron. It was parodied,—one of the surest signs of popularity, and it lived its parodies down, a surer sign still of intrinsic uncopiableness: It was criticised with heated words, and made the occasion for controversy. The elemental nature of the poetry led to vehement charges of plagiarism, and altogether the poet found himself in the midst of a violent war of words which recalled his experience with *Hyperion*. He felt keenly the unreasonableness of the attack upon his honesty in the charge that he had borrowed metre and incidents both from the Finnish *Kalevala*. He made no secret of the suggestion of the metre,—he had used an acknowledged form, which was not exclusively Finnish; and as for the legends, he openly confessed his indebtedness to Schoolcraft in the notes to the poem. Referring to an article in a Washington paper, embodying these charges, he wrote to Mr. Sumner, December 3, 1855:—

"This is truly one of the greatest literary outrages I ever heard of. But I think it is done mainly to show the learning of the writer. . . . He will stand finally in the position of a man who makes public assertions which he cannot substantiate. You see what the charge of imitation amounts to, by the extracts given. As to my having 'taken many of the most striking incidents of the Finnish Epic and transferred them to the American Indians'—it is absurd. I can give chapter and verse for these legends. Their chief value is that they *are* Indian

legends. I know the *Kalevala* very well; and that some of its legends resemble the Indian stories preserved by Schoolcraft is very true. But the idea of making me responsible for that is too ludicrous."

Freiligrath wrote to him with reference to a discussion going on in the London *Athenæum* over the metre: "The very moment I looked into the book I exclaimed, —

‘Launawatar, Frau die alte,’

and was laughing with you again over the pages of the *Finnische Runen*, as thirteen years ago on the Rhine. The characteristic feature, which shows that you have fetched the metre from the Finns, is the *parallelism* adopted so skilfully and so gracefully in *Hiawatha*." In a note in his diary upon this letter, Mr. Longfellow added: "He does not seem to be aware that the parallelism, or repetition, is as much the characteristic of Indian as of Finnish song."

Freiligrath translated *Hiawatha*, as he had other of Mr. Longfellow's poems, and in acknowledging the receipt of the translation, the poet wrote, January 29, 1857: —

"It is admirable, this translation of yours, as I knew it would be from the samples sent before. A thousand and a thousand thanks for it, and may Cotta pay you, as the broker paid Guzman de Alfarache, in money *sahumada, y lavada con agua de ángeles*. A passage was changed in the 'proofs which I sent to Bogue [the English publisher], and which he promised to hand to you. It is in the description of the sturgeon. This was changed to —

As above him Hiawatha
In his birch canoe came sailing,
With his fishing line of cedar, —

because the sturgeon, I found, was never guilty of the crime of frightening or eating his fellow-fishes. . . . What you say, in the preface, of the close of the poem is very true. The contact of *Saga* and *History* is too sudden. But how could I remedy it unless I made the poem very much longer? I felt the clash and concussion, but could not prevent nor escape it."

Meanwhile the book had an unexampled sale, and the

letters which the poet received from Emerson, Hawthorne, Parsons, Taylor, and others showed the judgment passed upon his work by those whose poetic perception was not blunted by habits of professional criticism nor taken captive by mere novelty. Several years after, a translation into Latin of a portion of the poem was made for use as a school-book, by Professor Francis W. Newman. A suggestive criticism, by Dr. Holmes, upon the measure of the poem occurred in his remarks at the meeting of the Massachusetts Historical Society, held after Mr. Longfellow's death, and is here reproduced.

“Suddenly and immensely popular in this country, greatly admired by many foreign critics, imitated with perfect ease by any clever school-boy, serving as a model for metrical advertisements, made fun of, sneered at, abused, admired, but, at any rate, a picture full of pleasing fancies and melodious cadences. The very names are jewels which the most fastidious muse might be proud to wear. Coming from the realm of the Androscoggin and of Moosetukmaguntuk, how could he have found two such delicious names as *Hiawatha* and *Minnehaha*? The eight-syllable trochaic verse of *Hiawatha*, like the eight-syllable iambic verse of *The Lady of the Lake*, and others of Scott's poems, has a fatal facility, which I have elsewhere endeavored to explain on physiological principles. The recital of each line uses up the air of one natural expiration, so that we read, as we naturally do, eighteen or twenty lines in a minute, without disturbing the normal rhythm of breathing, which is also eighteen or twenty breaths to the minute. The standing objection to this is, that it makes the octo-syllabic verse too easy writing and too slipshod reading. Yet in this most frequently criticised composition the poet has shown a subtle sense of the requirements of his simple story of a primitive race, in choosing the most fluid of measures, that lets the thought run through it in easy sing-song, such as oral tradition would be sure to find on the lips of the story-tellers of the wigwam.”

The publication of *Hiawatha* has had much to do with inducing an interest in the legends pertaining to the Indian life. One of the most accomplished students in Indian lore,

Mr. Horatio Hale, writes as follows in the *Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science*, 1881:—

“A singular fortune has attended the name and memory of Hiawatha. Though actually an historical personage, and not of very ancient date, of whose life and deeds many memorials remain, he has been confused with two Indian divinities,—the one Iroquois, the other Algonquin,—and his history has been distorted and obscured almost beyond recognition. Through the cloud of mythology which has enveloped his memory, the genius of Longfellow has discovered something of his real character, and has made his name, at least, a household word, wherever the English language is spoken. Hiawatha was a chief of the Onondagas who succeeded in bringing about a league or union of the Five, afterward Six Nations. To these people he gave laws and, in all respects, merited the reputation which tradition gave him. After the breaking up of the Confederacy, much that was supernatural became mingled with the history of Hiawatha. One of the legends concerning him was told by Mr. J. V. H. Clark, Historian of Onondaga County, New York, to Mr. Schoolcraft, while the latter was compiling his *Notes on the Iroquois*. Mr. Schoolcraft, pleased with the poetical cast of the story and the euphonious name, made confusion worse confounded by transferring the hero to a distant region and identifying him with Manabozho, a fantastic divinity of the Ojibways. Schoolcraft's volume, absurdly entitled *The Hiawatha Legends*, has not in it a single fact or fiction relating either to Hiawatha himself or to the Iroquois deity Aronhiawagon. Wild Ojibway stories concerning Manabozho and his comrades form the staple of its contents. But it is to this collection that we owe the charming poem of Longfellow; and thus, by an extraordinary fortune, a grave Iroquois law-giver of the fifteenth century has become, in modern literature, an Ojibway demigod, son of the West Wind, and companion of the tricksy Paupukkeewis, the boastful Iago, and the strong Kwasind. If a Chinese traveller, during the Middle Ages, inquiring into the history and religion of the western nations, had confounded King Alfred with King Arthur, and both with Odin, he would not have made a more preposterous confusion of names and characters than that which has hitherto disguised the genuine personality of the great Cnondaga reformer.”

After publishing the poem, Mr. Longfellow discovered that he had erred in the accent to be laid on two or three Indian words. One was Opechee, the robin. In the first edition, he wrote

"Sent the Opechee, the robin,"

but finding that the accent was more correctly on the second syllable, he changed the line wherever it occurred to

"Sent the robin, the Opechee."

In like manner, the first edition read

"All the giants, the Wendigoes,"

but this was changed later to

"All the Wendigoes, the giants."

These corrections indicate the scrupulous care he gave to his work. He was led to believe that the true pronunciation of his hero's name was Hi-a'-watha, but the form Hiawa'tha had become so current and was so involved in the poem that it was out of the question to change that. The notes which appear in this edition are drawn partly from those supplied by the poet when he published the poem, partly from other sources. The Vocabulary is taken, with a slight revision, from that originally published by Mr. Longfellow in his notes to the poem.

BOOKS RELATING TO THE INDIANS.

SCHOOLCRAFT, HENRY ROWE.

The Myth of Hiawatha, and Other Oral Legends of the North American Indians.

Algic Researches. Indian Tales and Legends.

Notes on the Iroquois.

Oneóta, or Characteristics of the Red Race of America.

Personal Memoirs of a Residence of Thirty Years with the Indian Tribes on the American Frontiers.

The Indian Tribes of the United States. (This book was condensed and edited by Francis S. Drake from Schoolcraft's other works.)

MATTHEWS, CORNELIUS.

Hiawatha and Other Legends of the Wigwams of the Red American Indians. (This book is based upon the matter originally compiled by Schoolcraft.)

DRAKE, SAMUEL G.

The Book of the Indians, or, Biography and History of the Indians of North America, from its First Discovery to the Year 1841.

CATLIN, GEORGE.

Life among the Indians.

Letters and Notes on the Manners, Customs, and Condition of the North American Indians.

Last Rambles.

LELAND, CHARLES G.

The Algonquin Legends of New England.

RAND, SILAS T.

Legends of the Micmacs.

(Mr. Rand was a missionary for forty years among the Micmac Indians in Nova Scotia, and reduced to writing their legends and traditions, which, however, he never published. The manuscripts, having become the property of Wellesley College, have been edited by Miss Helen L. Webster, and published in the Wellesley Philological Publications.)

YAWGER, ROSE N.

The Indian and the Pioneer. An Historical Study.

BRADFORD, ALEXANDER W.

American Antiquities, and Researches into the Origin and History of the Red Race.

BRINE, LINDESDAY, Vice-admiral.

Travels amongst American Indians: Their Ancient Earthworks and Temples. (An English book.)

YARROW, H. C.

Introduction to the Study of Mortuary Customs among the North American Indians.

YOUNG, EGERTON RYERSON.

Stories from Indian Wigwams and Northern Camp-fires.

GRINNELL, GEORGE BIRD.

The Story of the Indian.

Blackfoot Lodge Tales.

INTRODUCTION.

SHOULD you ask me, whence these stories?

Whence these legends and traditions,

With the odors of the forest,

With the dew and damp of meadows,

8 With the curling smoke of wigwams,

With the rushing of great rivers,

With their frequent repetitions,

And their wild reverberations,

As of thunder in the mountains?

10 I should answer, I should tell you,

“From the forests and the prairies,

From the great lakes of the Northland,

From the land of the Ojibways,

From the land of the Dacotahs,

12 From the mountains, moors, and fen-lands,

Where the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,

Feeds among the reeds and and rushes.

I repeat them as I heard them

From the lips of Nawadaha,

20 The musician, the sweet singer.”

Should you ask where Nawadaha

Found these songs so wild and wayward,

Found these legends and traditions,

I should answer, I should tell you,

13. Southern shore of Lake Superior, in the region between the Pictured Rocks and the Grand Sable.

14. A very comprehensive name, including many tribes of the Northwest, but doubtless here meaning the modern Sioux.

25 "In the bird's-nests of the forest,
 In the lodges of the beaver,
 In the hoof-prints of the bison,
 In the eyry of the eagle !

"All the wild-fowl sang them to him,
 26 In the moorlands and the fen-lands,
 In the melancholy marshes ;
 Chetowaik, the plover, sang them,
 Mahn, the loon, the wild goose, Wawa,
 The blue heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
 27 And the grouse, the Mushkodasa !"

If still further you should ask me,
 Saying, "Who was Nawadaha ?
 Tell us of this Nawadaha,"
 I should answer your inquiries
 28 Straightway in such words as follow.

"In the Vale of Tawasentha,
 In the green and silent valley,
 By the pleasant water-courses,
 Dwelt the singer Nawadaha.
 29 Round about the Indian village
 Spread the meadows and the cornfields,
 And beyond them stood the forest,
 Stood the groves of singing pine-trees,
 Green in Summer, white in Winter,
 30 Ever sighing, ever singing.

"And the pleasant water-courses,
 You could trace them through the valley,
 By the rushing in the Spring-time,
 By the alders in the Summer,
 31 By the white fog in the Autumn,
 By the black line in the Winter ;

41. This valley, now called Norman's Kill, is in Albany County, New York.

And beside them dwelt the singer,
 In the vale of Tawasentha,
 In the green and silent valley.

- “ There he sang of Hiawatha,
 Sang the Song of Hiawatha,
 Sang his wondrous birth and being,
 How he prayed and how he fasted,
 How he lived, and toiled, and suffered,
- That the tribes of men might prosper,
 That he might advance his people ! ”

Ye who love the haunts of Nature,
 Love the sunshine of the meadow,
 Love the shadow of the forest,

- Love the wind among the branches,
 And the rain-shower and the snow-storm,
 And the rushing of great rivers
 Through their palisades of pine-trees,
 And the thunder in the mountains,
- Whose innumerable echoes
 Flap like eagles in their eyries ; —
 Listen to these wild traditions,
 To this Song of Hiawatha !

Ye who love a nation’s legends,

- Love the ballads of a people,
 That like voices from afar off
 Call to us to pause and listen,
 Speak in tones so plain and childlike,
 Scarcely can the ear distinguish
- Whether they are sung or spoken ; —
 Listen to this Indian Legend,
 To this Song of Hiawatha !

Ye whose hearts are fresh and simple,
 Who have faith in God and Nature,

- Who believe that in all ages

Every human heart is human,
 That in even savage bosoms
 There are longings, yearnings, strivings
 For the good they comprehend not,
 96 That the feeble hands and helpless,
 Groping blindly in the darkness,
 Touch God's right hand in that darkness
 And are lifted up and strengthened ; —
 Listen to this simple story,
 100 To this song of Hiawatha !

Ye who sometimes, in your rambles
 Through the green lanes of the country,
 Where the tangled barberry-bushes
 Hang their tufts of crimson berries
 106 Over stone walls gray with mosses,
 Pause by some neglected graveyard,
 For a while to muse, and ponder
 On a half-effaced inscription,
 Written with little skill of song-craft,
 110 Homely phrases, but each letter
 Full of hope and yet of heart-break,
 Full of all the tender pathos
 Of the Here and the Hereafter ; —
 Stay and read this rude inscription,
 115 Read this song of Hiawatha !

98. "I fearlessly assert to the world (and I defy contradiction) that the North American Indian is everywhere, in his native state, a highly moral and religious being, endowed by his Maker with an intuitive knowledge of some great author of his being and the Universe ; in dread of whose displeasure he constantly lives, with the apprehension before him of a future state, where he expects to be rewarded or punished according to the merits he has gained or forfeited in this world." Catlin's *Manners and Customs of the North American Indians*, p. 158.

THE SONG OF HIAWATHA.

I.

THE PEACE-PIPE.

ON the Mountains of the Prairie,
On the great Red Pipe-stone Quarry,
Gitche Manitou, the mighty,
He the Master of Life, descending,
5 On the red crags of the quarry
Stood erect, and called the nations,
Called the tribes of men together.

From his footprints flowed a river,
Leaped into the light of morning,
10 O'er the precipice plunging downward
Gleamed like Ishkoodah, the comet.
And the Spirit, stooping earthward,
With his finger on the meadow
Traced a winding pathway for it,
15 Saying to it, " Run in this way ! "

1. Located near the boundary between Minnesota and Dakota, near the head waters of the Mississippi.

2. This quarry, located near the hills or mountains, was very famous among the Indians, who by common consent had made the adjacent territory neutral ground. Here they came and provided themselves with pipes, very necessary to the Indian's happiness. To apply the stone to any other use than that of pipe-making would have been sacrilege in the native's mind. From similarity in color, they even fancied it to have been made, at the great deluge, out of the flesh of the perishing Indian.

From the red stone of the quarry
 With his hand he broke a fragment,
 Moulded it into a pipe-head,
 Shaped and fashioned it with figures ;
 20 From the margin of the river
 Took a long reed for a pipe-stem,
 With its dark green leaves upon it ;
 Filled the pipe with bark of willow,
 With the bark of the red willow ;
 25 Breathed upon the neighboring forest,
 Made its great boughs chafe together,
 Till in flame they burst and kindled ;
 And erect upon the mountains,
 Gitche Manitou, the mighty,
 30 Smoked the calumet, the Peace-Pipe,
 As a signal to the nations.

And the smoke rose slowly, slowly,
 Through the tranquil air of morning,
 First a single line of darkness,
 35 Then a denser, bluer vapor,
 Then a snow-white cloud unfolding,
 Like the tree-tops of the forest,
 Ever rising, rising, rising,
 Till it touched the top of heaven,
 40 Till it broke against the heaven,
 And rolled outward all around it.

From the Vale of Tawasentha,
 From the Valley of Wyoming,
 From the groves of Tuscaloosa,

43. In Northern Pennsylvania, on the Susquehanna River, the scene of a terrible massacre by the Indians and Tories in 1778. Campbell wrote *Gertrude of Wyoming* on the incidents of that July 5th.

44. A section of Alabama, taking its name from the chief defeated by De Soto in 1540.



“All the tribes beheld the signal”

45 From the far-off Rocky Mountains,
From the Northern lakes and rivers,
All the tribes beheld the signal,
Saw the distant smoke ascending,
The Pukwana of the Peace-Pipe.

50 And the Prophets of the nations
Said : "Behold it, the Pukwana !
By this signal from afar off,
Bending like a wand of willow,
Waving like a hand that beckons,

55 Gitche Manitou, the mighty,
Calls the tribes of men together,
Calls the warriors to his council !"
Down the rivers, o'er the prairies,
Came the warriors of the nations,

60 Came the Delawares and Mohawks,
Came the Choctaws and Camanches,
Came the Shoshonies and Blackfeet,
Came the Pawnees and Omahas,
Came the Mandans and Dacotahs,

65 Came the Hurons and Ojibways,
All the warriors drawn together
By the signal of the Peace-Pipe,
To the Mountains of the Prairie,
To the great Red Pipe-stone Quarry.

70 And they stood there on the meadow,
With their weapons and their war-gear,
Painted like the leaves of Autumn,
Painted like the sky of morning,
Wildly glaring at each other ;

75 In their faces stern defiance,
In their hearts the feuds of ages,
The hereditary hatred,
The ancestral thirst of vengeance.

Gitche Manitou, the mighty,
The creator of the nations,
Looked upon them with compassion,
With paternal love and pity ;
Looked upon their wrath and wrangling
But as quarrels among children,
But as feuds and fights of children !

Over them he stretched his right hand,
To subdue their stubborn natures,
To allay their thirst and fever,
By the shadow of his right hand ;
Spake to them with voice majestic
As the sound of far-off waters
Falling into deep abysses,
Warning, chiding, spake in this wise :—

“ O my children ! my poor children !
Listen to the words of wisdom,
Listen to the words of warning,
From the lips of the Great Spirit,
From the Master of Life, who made you !

“ I have given you lands to hunt in,
I have given you streams to fish in,
I have given you bear and bison,
I have given you roe and reindeer,
I have given you brant and beaver,
Filled the marshes full of wild-fowl,
Filled the rivers full of fishes ;

Why then are you not contented ?
Why then will you hunt each other ?

“ I am weary of your quarrels,
Weary of your wars and bloodshed,
Weary of your prayers for vengeance,
Of your wranglings and dissensions ;
All your strength is in your union,

All your danger is in discord ;
 Therefore be at peace henceforward,
 115 And as brothers live together.

“ I will send a Prophet to you,
 A Deliverer of the nations,
 Who shall guide you and shall teach you,
 Who shall toil and suffer with you.

120 If you listen to his counsels,
 You will multiply and prosper ;
 If his warnings pass unheeded,
 You will fade away and perish !

“ Bathe now in the stream before you,
 125 Wash the war-paint from your faces,
 Wash the blood-stains from your fingers,
 Bury your war-clubs and your weapons,
 Break the red stone from this quarry,
 Mould and make it into Peace-Pipes,
 130 Take the reeds that grow beside you,
 Deck them with your brightest feathers,
 Smoke the calumet together,
 And as brothers live henceforward ! ”

Then upon the ground the warriors
 135 Threw their cloaks and shirts of deer-skin,
 Threw their weapons and their war-gear,
 Leaped into the rushing river,
 Washed the war-paint from their faces.
 Clear above them flowed the water,
 140 Clear and limpid from the footprints
 Of the Master of Life descending ;
 Dark below them flowed the water,

115. Beginning with “ I have given you lands to hunt in,” this passage was very effectively repeated by Acting Governor Stanton of Kansas in 1857, to a company of five hundred Free State men who had met to hear him in Lawrence.

Soiled and stained with streaks of crimson,
As if blood were mingled with it!

145 From the river came the warriors,
Clean and washed from all their war-paint;
On the banks their clubs they buried,
Buried all their warlike weapons.
Gitche Manitou, the mighty,
150 The Great Spirit, the creator,
Smiled upon his helpless children!
And in silence all the warriors
Broke the red stone of the quarry,
Smoothed and formed it into Peace-Pipes,
155 Broke the long reeds by the river,
Decked them with their brightest feathers,
And departed each one homeward,
While the Master of Life, ascending,
Through the opening of cloud-curtains,
160 Through the doorways of the heaven,
Vanished from before their faces,
In the smoke that rolled around him,
The Pukwana of the Peace-Pipe!

II.

THE FOUR WINDS.

“HONOR be to Mudjekeewis!”
Cried the warriors, cried the old men,
When he came in triumph homeward
With the sacred Belt of Wampum,
5 From the regions of the North-Wind,
From the kingdom of Wabasso,
From the land of the White Rabbit.

He had stolen the Belt of Wampum

From the neck of Mishe-Mokwa,
10 From the Great Bear of the mountains,
From the terror of the nations,
As he lay asleep and cumbrous
On the summit of the mountains,
Like a rock with mosses on it,
15 Spotted brown and gray with mosses.

Silently he stole upon him,
Till the red nails of the monster
Almost touched him, almost scared him,
Till the hot breath of his nostrils
20 Warmed the hands of Mudjekeewis,
As he drew the Belt of Wampum
Over the round ears, that heard not,
Over the small eyes, that saw not,
Over the long nose and nostrils,
25 The black muffle of the nostrils,
Out of which the heavy breathing
Warmed the hands of Mudjekeewis.

Then he swung aloft his war-club,
Shouted loud and long his war-cry,
30 Smote the mighty Mishe-Mokwa
In the middle of the forehead,
Right between the eyes he smote him.

With the heavy blow bewildered,
Rose the Great Bear of the mountains ;
35 But his knees beneath him trembled,
And he whimpered like a woman,
As he reeled and staggered forward,
As he sat upon his haunches ;
And the mighty Mudjekeewis,
40 Standing fearlessly before him,
Taunted him in loud derision,
Spake disdainfully in this wise : —

“ Hark you, Bear ! you are a coward,
 And no Brave, as you pretended ;
 “ Else you would not cry and whimper
 Like a miserable woman !
 Bear ! you know our tribes are hostile,
 Long have been at war together ;
 Now you find that we are strongest,
 “ You go sneaking in the forest,
 You go hiding in the mountains !
 Had you conquered me in battle
 Not a groan would I have uttered ;
 But you, Bear ! sit here and whimper,
 “ And disgrace your tribe by crying,
 Like a wretched Shaugodaya,
 Like a cowardly old woman ! ”

Then again he raised his war-club,
 Smote again the Mishe-Mokwa
 “ In the middle of his forehead,
 Broke his skull, as ice is broken
 When one goes to fish in Winter.
 Thus was slain the Mishe-Mokwa,
 He the Great Bear of the mountains,
 “ He the terror of the nations.

“ Honor be to Mudjekeewis ! ”

65. In this story of the killing of the bear, the poet has taken a tradition long prevalent, according to Heckewelder, among the Mohicans and Delawares.

In Heckewelder's account of the Indian Nations, he describes an Indian hunter as addressing a bear in nearly these words. “ I was present,” he says, “ at the delivery of this curious invective ; when the hunter had despatched the bear, I asked him how he thought that poor animal could understand what he said to it. ‘ Oh,’ said he in answer, ‘ the bear understood me very well : did you not observe how *ashamed* he looked while I was upbraiding him ? ’ ”

With a shout exclaimed the people,
" Honor be to Mudjekeewis !
Henceforth he shall be the West-Wind,
70 And hereafter and forever
Shall he hold supreme dominion
Over all the winds of heaven.
Call him no more Mudjekeewis,
Call him Kabeyun, the West-Wind ! "

75 Thus was Mudjekeewis chosen
Father of the Winds of Heaven.
For himself he kept the West-Wind,
Gave the others to his children ;
Unto Wabun gave the East-Wind,
80 Gave the South to Shawondasee,
And the North-Wind, wild and cruel,
To the fierce Kabibonokka.

Young and beautiful was Wabun ;
He it was who brought the morning,
85 He it was whose silver arrows
Chased the dark o'er hill and valley ;
He it was whose cheeks were painted
With the brightest streaks of crimson,
And whose voice awoke the village,
90 Called the deer, and called the hunter.

Lonely in the sky was Wabun ;
Though the birds sang gayly to him,
Though the wild-flowers of the meadow
Filled the air with odors for him,
95 Though the forests and the rivers
Sang and shouted at his coming,
Still his heart was sad within him,
For he was alone in heaven.

But one morning, gazing earthward,
100 While the village still was sleeping,

And the fog lay on the river,
Like a ghost, that goes at sunrise,
He beheld a maiden walking
All alone upon a meadow,
100 Gathering water-flags and rushes
By a river in the meadow.

Every morning, gazing earthward,
Still the first thing he beheld there
Was her blue eyes looking at him,
110 Two blue lakes among the rushes.

And he loved the lonely maiden,
Who thus waited for his coming;
For they both were solitary,
She on earth and he in heaven.

115 And he wooed her with caresses,
Wooed her with his smile of sunshine,
With his flattering words he wooed her,
With his sighing and his singing,
Gentlest whispers in the branches,

120 Softest music, sweetest odors,
Till he drew her to his bosom,
Folded in his robes of crimson,
Till into a star he changed her,
Trembling still upon his bosom;

125 And forever in the heavens
They are seen together walking,
Waban and the Wabun-Annung,
Wabun and the Star of Morning.

128. In this fanciful union of the morning star and the east wind we are reminded of the ancient Greeks and their legends of nearly all the stars. Andromeda and Perseus, associated in life, were translated by the gods to the skies, everlastingly to revolve about the great central star, while near by were Cassiopeia and Cepheus, the mother and father of the captive maiden.

But the fierce Kabibonokka
 130 Had his dwelling among icebergs,
 In the everlasting snow-drifts,
 In the kingdom of Wabasso,
 In the land of the White Rabbit.
 He it was whose hand in Autumn
 135 Painted all the trees with scarlet,
 Stained the leaves with red and yellow ;
 He it was who sent the snow-flakes,
 Sifting, hissing through the forest,
 Froze the ponds, the lakes, the rivers,
 140 Drove the loon and sea-gull southward,
 Drove the cormorant and curlew
 To their nests of sedge and sea-tang
 In the realms of Shawondasee.

Once the fierce Kabibonokka
 145 Issued from his lodge of snow-drifts,
 From his home among the icebergs,
 And his hair, with snow besprinkled,
 Streamed behind him like a river,
 Like a black and wintry river,
 150 As he howled and hurried southward,
 Over frozen lakes and moorlands.

There among the reeds and rushes
 Found he Shingebis, the diver,
 Trailing strings of fish behind him,
 155 O'er the frozen fens and moorlands,
 Lingering still among the moorlands,
 Though his tribe had long departed
 To the land of Shawondasee.

Cried the fierce Kabibonokka,
 160 " Who is this that dares to brave me ?
 Dares to stay in my dominions,
 When the Wawa has departed,

When the wild-goose has gone southward,
And the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
165 Long ago departed southward ?
I will go into his wigwam,
I will put his smouldering fire out !”
And at night Kabibonokka
To the lodge came wild and wailing,
170 Heaped the snow in drifts about it,
Shouted down into the smoke-flue,
Shook the lodge-poles in his fury,
Flapped the curtain of the door-way.
Shingebis, the diver, feared not,
175 Shingebis, the diver, cared not ;
Four great logs had he for fire-wood,
One for each moon of the winter,
And for food the fishes served him.
By his blazing fire he sat there,
180 Warm and merry, eating, laughing,
Singing, “ O Kabibonokka,
You are but my fellow-mortal ! ”
Then Kabibonokka entered,
And though Shingebis, the diver,
185 Felt his presence by the coldness,
Felt his icy breath upon him,
Still he did not cease his singing,
Still he did not leave his laughing,
Only turned the log a little,
190 Only made the fire burn brighter,
Made the sparks fly up the smoke-flue.
From Kabibonokka’s forehead,
From his snow-besprinkled tresses,
Drops of sweat fell fast and heavy,
195 Making dints upon the ashes,
As along the eaves of lodges,

As from drooping boughs of hemlock,
 Drips the melting snow in spring-time,
 Making hollows in the snow-drifts.

200 Till at last he rose defeated,
 Could not bear the heat and laughter,
 Could not bear the merry singing,
 But rushed headlong through the door-way,
 Stamped upon the crusted snow-drifts,

205 Stamped upon the lakes and rivers,
 Made the snow upon them harder,
 Made the ice upon them thicker,
 Challenged Shingebis, the diver,
 To come forth and wrestle with him,

210 To come forth and wrestle naked
 On the frozen fens and moorlands.

Forth went Shingebis, the diver,
 Wrestled all night with the North-Wind,
 Wrestled naked on the moorlands

215 With the fierce Kabibonokka,
 Till his panting breath grew fainter,
 Till his frozen grasp grew feebler,
 Till he reeled and staggered backward,
 And retreated, baffled, beaten,

220 To the kingdom of Wabasso,
 To the land of the White Rabbit,
 Hearing still the gusty laughter,
 Hearing Shingebis, the diver,
 Singing, "O Kabibonokka,

225 You are but my fellow-mortal!"
 Shawondasee, fat and lazy, —

226. "Shawondasee is represented as an affluent, plethoric old man, who has grown unwieldy from repletion, and seldom moves. He keeps his eyes steadfastly fixed on the north. When he sighs, in autumn, we have those balmy southern airs, which

Had his dwelling far to southward,
 In the drowsy, dreamy sunshine,
 In the never-ending Summer.

230 He it was who sent the wood-birds,
 Sent the robin, the Opechee,
 Sent the bluebird, the Owaissa,
 Sent the Shawshaw, sent the swallow,
 Sent the wild-goose, Wawa, northward,
 235 Sent the melons and tobacco,
 And the grapes in purple clusters.

From his pipe the smoke ascending
 Filled the sky with haze and vapor,
 Filled the air with dreamy softness,

240 Gave a twinkle to the water.
 Touched the rugged hills with smoothness,
 Brought the tender Indian Summer
 To the melancholy North-land,
 In the dreary Moon of Snow-shoes.

245 Listless, careless Shawondasee !
 In his life he had one shadow,
 In his heart one sorrow had he.
 Once, as he was gazing northward,
 Far away upon a prairie

250 He beheld a maiden standing,
 Saw a tall and slender maiden
 All alone upon a prairie ;
 Brightest green were all her garments,
 And her hair was like the sunshine.

255 Day by day he gazed upon her,
 Day by day he sighed with passion,
 Day by day his heart within him

communicate warmth and delight over the northern hemisphere,
 and make the Indian Summer." — Schoolcraft's *Algic Researches*, vol. ii. p. 214.

Grew more hot with love and longing
 For the maid with yellow tresses.

260 But he was too fat and lazy
 To bestir himself and woo her ;
 Yes, too indolent and easy
 To pursue her and persuade her.
 So he only gazed upon her,
 265 Only sat and sighed with passion
 For the maiden of the prairie.

Till one morning, looking northward,
 He beheld her yellow tresses
 Changed and covered o'er with whiteness,
 270 Covered as with whitest snow-flakes.
 " Ah ! my brother from the North-land,
 From the kingdom of Wabasso,
 From the land of the White Rabbit !
 You have stolen the maiden from me,
 275 You have laid your hand upon her,
 You have wooed and won my maiden,
 With your stories of the North-land ! "

Thus the wretched Shawondasee
 Breathed into the air his sorrow ;
 280 And the South-Wind o'er the prairie
 Wandered warm with sighs of passion,
 With the sighs of Shawondasee,
 Till the air seemed full of snow-flakes,
 Full of thistle-down the prairie,
 285 And the maid with hair like sunshine
 Vanished from his sight forever ;
 Never more did Shawondasee
 See the maid with yellow tresses !
 Poor, deluded Shawondasee !
 290 'T was no woman that you gazed at,
 'T was no maiden that you sighed for,

'T was the prairie dandelion
 That through all the dreamy Summer
 You had gazed at with such longing,
 25 You had sighed for with such passion,
 And had puffed away forever,
 Blown into the air with sighing.
 Ah ! deluded Shawondasee !

Thus the Four Winds were divided ;
 20 Thus the sons of Mudjekeewis
 Had their stations in the heavens,
 At the corners of the heavens ;
 For himself the West-Wind only
 Kept the mighty Mudjekeewis.

III.

HIAWATHA'S CHILDHOOD.

DOWNWARD through the evening twilight,
 In the days that are forgotten,
 In the unremembered ages,
 From the full moon fell Nokomis,
 5 Fell the beautiful Nokomis,
 She a wife but not a mother.

She was sporting with her women,
 Swinging in a swing of grape-vines,
 When her rival, the rejected,
 10 Full of jealousy and hatred,
 Cut the leafy swing asunder,
 Cut in twain the twisted grape-vines,
 And Nokomis fell affrighted
 Downward through the evening twilight,
 15 On the Muskoday, the meadow,
 On the prairie full of blossoms.

“ See ! a star falls ! ” said the people ;
“ From the sky a star is falling ! ”

There among the ferns and mosses,
• There among the prairie lilies,
On the Muskoday, the meadow,
In the moonlight and the starlight,
Fair Nokomis bore a daughter.
And she called her name Wenonah,
• As the first-born of her daughters.
And the daughter of Nokomis
Grew up like the prairie lilies,
Grew a tall and slender maiden,
With the beauty of the moonlight,
• With the beauty of the starlight.
And Nokomis warned her often,
Saying oft, and oft repeating,
“ Oh, beware of Mudjekeewis,
Of the West-Wind, Mudjekeewis ;
• Listen not to what he tells you ;
Lie not down upon the meadow,
Stoop not down among the lilies,
Lest the West-Wind come and harm you ! ”

But she heeded not the warning,
• Heeded not those words of wisdom.
And the West-Wind came at evening,
Walking lightly o'er the prairie,
Whispering to the leaves and blossoms,
Bending low the flowers and grasses,
• Found the beautiful Wenonah,
Lying there among the lilies,
Wooed her with his words of sweetness,
Wooed her with his soft caresses,
Till she bore a son in sorrow,
• Bore a son of love and sorrow.

Thus was born my Hiawatha,
 Thus was born the child of wonder ;
 But the daughter of Nokomis,
 Hiawatha's gentle mother,
ss In her anguish died deserted
 By the West-Wind, false and faithless,
 By the heartless Mudjekeewis.

For her daughter, long and loudly
 Wailed and wept the sad Nokomis ;
ss "Oh that I were dead !" she murmured,
 "Oh that I were dead, as thou art !
 No more work, and no more weeping,
 Wahonowin ! Wahonowin !"

By the shores of Gitche Gumee,
ss By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
 Stood the wigwam of Nokomis
 Daughter of the Moon, Nokomis.
 Dark behind it rose the forest,
 Rose the black and gloomy pine-trees,
ss Rose the firs with cones upon them ;
 Bright before it beat the water,
 Beat the clear and sunny water,
 Beat the shining Big-Sea-Water.

There the wrinkled old Nokomis
ss Nursed the little Hiawatha,
 Rocked him in his linden cradle,
 Bedded soft in moss and rushes,
 Safely bound with reindeer sinews ;
 Stilled his fretful wail by saying,
ss "Hush ! the Naked Bear will hear thee !"
 Lulled him into slumber, singing,
 "Ewa-yea ! my little owlet !

80. The "Great Bear of the mountains," slain by Mudjekeewis. The expression was a common one among the Indians, they using it as a veritable "bugbear."

Who is this, that lights the wigwam ?
With his great eyes lights the wigwam ?
as Ewa-yea ! my little owlet ! ”

Many things Nokomis taught him
Of the stars that shine in heaven ;
Showed him Ishkoodah, the comet,
Ishkoodah, with fiery tresses ;
so Showed the Death-Dance of the spirits,
Warriors with their plumes and war-clubs
Flaring far away to northward
In the frosty nights of Winter ;
Showed the broad white road in heaven,
as Pathway of the ghosts, the shadows,
Running straight across the heavens,
Crowded with the ghosts, the shadows.

At the door on summer evenings
Sat the little Hiawatha ;
100 Heard the whispering of the pine-trees,
Heard the lapping of the waters,
Sounds of music, words of wonder ;
“ Minne-wawa ! ” said the pine-trees.
“ Mudway-aushka ! ” said the water.
105 Saw the fire-fly, Wah-wah-taysee,
Flitting through the dusk of evening,
With the twinkle of its candle
Lighting up the brakes and bushes,
And he sang the song of children,
110 Sang the song Nokomis taught him :
“ Wah-wah-taysee, little fire-fly,
Little, flitting, white-fire insect,
Little, dancing, white-fire creature,
Light me with your little candle,
115 Ere upon my bed I lay me,
Ere in sleep I close my eyelids ! ”

Saw the moon rise from the water
Rippling, rounding from the water,
Saw the flecks and shadows on it,
120 Whispered, "What is that, Nokomis?"
And the good Nokomis answered:
"Once a warrior, very angry,
Seized his grandmother, and threw her
Up into the sky at midnight;
125 Right against the moon he threw her;
'T is her body that you see there."

Saw the rainbow in the heaven,
In the eastern sky, the rainbow,
Whispered, "What is that, Nokomis?"
130 And the good Nokomis answered:
"'T is the heaven of flowers you see there;
All the wild-flowers of the forest,
All the lilies of the prairie,
When on earth they fade and perish,
135 Blossom in that heaven above us."

When he heard the owls at midnight,
Hooting, laughing in the forest,
"What is that?" he cried in terror;
"What is that," he said, "Nokomis?"
140 And the good Nokomis answered:
"That is but the owl and owlet,
Talking in their native language,
Talking, scolding at each other."

Then the little Hiawatha
145 Learned of every bird its language,
Learned their names and all their secrets,
How they built their nests in Summer,
Where they hid themselves in Winter,
Talked with them whene'er he met them,
150 Called them "Hiawatha's Chickens."

Of all beasts he learned the language,
Learned their names and all their secrets,
How the beavers built their lodges,
Where the squirrels hid their acorns,
155 How the reindeer ran so swiftly,
Why the rabbit was so timid,
Talked with them whene'er he met them,
Called them "Hiawatha's Brothers."

Then Iagoo, the great boaster,
160 He the marvellous story-teller,
He the traveller and the talker,
He the friend of old Nokomis,
Made a bow for Hiawatha ;
From a branch of ash he made it,
165 From an oak-bough made the arrows,
Tipped with flint, and winged with feathers,
And the cord he made of deer-skin.

Then he said to Hiawatha :
" Go, my son, into the forest,
170 Where the red deer herd together,
Kill for us a famous roebuck,
Kill for us a deer with antlers ! "

Forth into the forest straightway
All alone walked Hiawatha
175 Proudly, with his bow and arrows ;
And the birds sang round him, o'er him,
" Do not shoot us, Hiawatha ! "
Sang the robin, the Opechee,
Sang the bluebird, the Owaissa,
180 " Do not shoot us, Hiawatha ! "
Up the oak-tree, close beside him,
Sprang the squirrel, Adjidaumo,
In and out among the branches,

Coughed and chattered from the oak-tree,
185 Laughed, and said between his laughing,
"Do not shoot me, Hiawatha!"
And the rabbit from his pathway
Leaped aside, and at a distance
Sat erect upon his haunches,
190 Half in fear and half in frolic,
Saying to the little hunter,
"Do not shoot me, Hiawatha!"
But he heeded not, nor heard them,
For his thoughts were with the red deer;
195 On their tracks his eyes were fastened,
Leading downward to the river,
To the ford across the river,
And as one in slumber walked he.
Hidden in the alder-bushes,
200 There he waited till the deer came,
Till he saw two antlers lifted,
Saw two eyes look from the thicket,
Saw two nostrils point to windward,
And a deer came down the pathway,
205 Flecked with leafy light and shadow.
And his heart within him fluttered,
Trembled like the leaves above him,
Like the birch-leaf palpitated,
As the deer came down the pathway.
210 Then, upon one knee uprising,
Hiawatha aimed an arrow;
Scarce a twig moved with his motion,
Scarce a leaf was stirred or rustled,
But the wary roebuck started,
215 Stamped with all his hoofs together,
Listened with one foot uplifted,
Leaped as if to meet the arrow;

Ah ! the singing, fatal arrow ;
Like a wasp it buzzed and stung him !

220 Dead he lay there in the forest,
By the ford across the river ;
Beat his timid heart no longer,
But the heart of Hiawatha
Throbbed and shouted and exulted,
225 As he bore the red deer homeward,
And Iago and Nokomis
Hailed his coming with applauses.
From the red deer's hide Nokomis
Made a cloak for Hiawatha,
230 From the red deer's flesh Nokomis
Made a banquet in his honor.
All the village came and feasted,
All the guests praised Hiawatha,
Called him Strong-Heart, Soan-ge-taha !
235 Called him Loon-Heart, Mahn-go-taysee !

IV.

HIAWATHA AND MUDJEKEEWIS.

OUT of childhood into manhood
Now had grown my Hiawatha,
Skilled in all the craft of hunters,
Learned in all the lore of old men,
5 In all youthful sports and pastimes,
In all manly arts and labors.
Swift of foot was Hiawatha ;
He could shoot an arrow from him,
And run forward with such fleetness,
10 That the arrow fell behind him !
Strong of arm was Hiawatha ;

He could shoot ten arrows upward,
Shoot them with such strength and swiftness,
That the tenth had left the bow-string
✉ Ere the first to earth had fallen !

He had mittens, Minjekahwun,
Magic mittens made of deer-skin ;
When upon his hands he wore them,
He could smite the rocks asunder,
✉ He could grind them into powder.
He had moccasins enchanted,
Magic moccasins of deer-skin ;
When he bound them round his ankles,
When upon his feet he tied them,
✉ At each stride a mile he measured !

Much he questioned old Nokomis
Of his father Mudjekeewis ;
Learned from her the fatal secret
Of the beauty of his mother,
✉ Of the falsehood of his father ;
And his heart was hot within him,
Like a living coal his heart was.

Then he said to old Nokomis,
“ I will go to Mudjekeewis,
✉ See how fares it with my father,
At the doorways of the West-Wind,
At the portals of the Sunset ! ”

From his lodge went Hiawatha,
Dressed for travel, armed for hunting ;
✉ Dressed in deer-skin shirt and leggings,
Richly wrought with quills and wampum
On his head his eagle-feathers,
Round his waist his belt of wampum,
In his hand his bow of ash-wood,
✉ Strung with sinews of the reindeer ;

In his quiver oaken arrows,
Tipped with jasper, winged with feathers ;
With his mittens, Minjekahwun,
With his moccasins enchanted.

50 Warning said the old Nokomis,
“ Go not forth, O Hiawatha !
To the kingdom of the West-Wind,
To the realms of Mudjekeewis,
Lest he harm you with his magic,
55 Lest he kill you with his cunning ! ”

But the fearless Hiawatha
Heeded not her woman’s warning ;
Forth he strode into the forest,
At each stride a mile he measured ;
50 Lurid seemed the sky above him,
Lurid seemed the earth beneath him,
Hot and close the air around him,
Filled with smoke and fiery vapors,
As of burning woods and prairies.
55 For his heart was hot within him,
Like a living coal his heart was.

So he journeyed westward, westward,
Left the fleetest deer behind him,
Left the antelope and bison ;
70 Crossed the rushing Esconaba,
Crossed the mighty Mississippi,
Passed the Mountains of the Prairie,
Passed the land of Crows and Foxes,
Passed the dwellings of the Blackfeet,
75 Came unto the Rocky Mountains,
To the kingdom of the West-Wind,
Where upon the gusty summits

70. A river of Northern Michigan, emptying into the Little Bay de Noquet. Sometimes spelled Escanaba.

Sat the ancient Mudjekeewis,
Ruler of the winds of heaven.

80 Filled with awe was Hiawatha
At the aspect of his father.
On the air about him wildly
Tossed and streamed his cloudy tresses,
Gleamed like drifting snow his tresses,
85 Glared like Ishkoodah, the comet,
Like the star with fiery tresses.

Filled with joy was Mudjekeewis
When he looked on Hiawatha,
Saw his youth rise up before him
90 In the face of Hiawatha,
Saw the beauty of Wenonah
From the grave rise up before him.

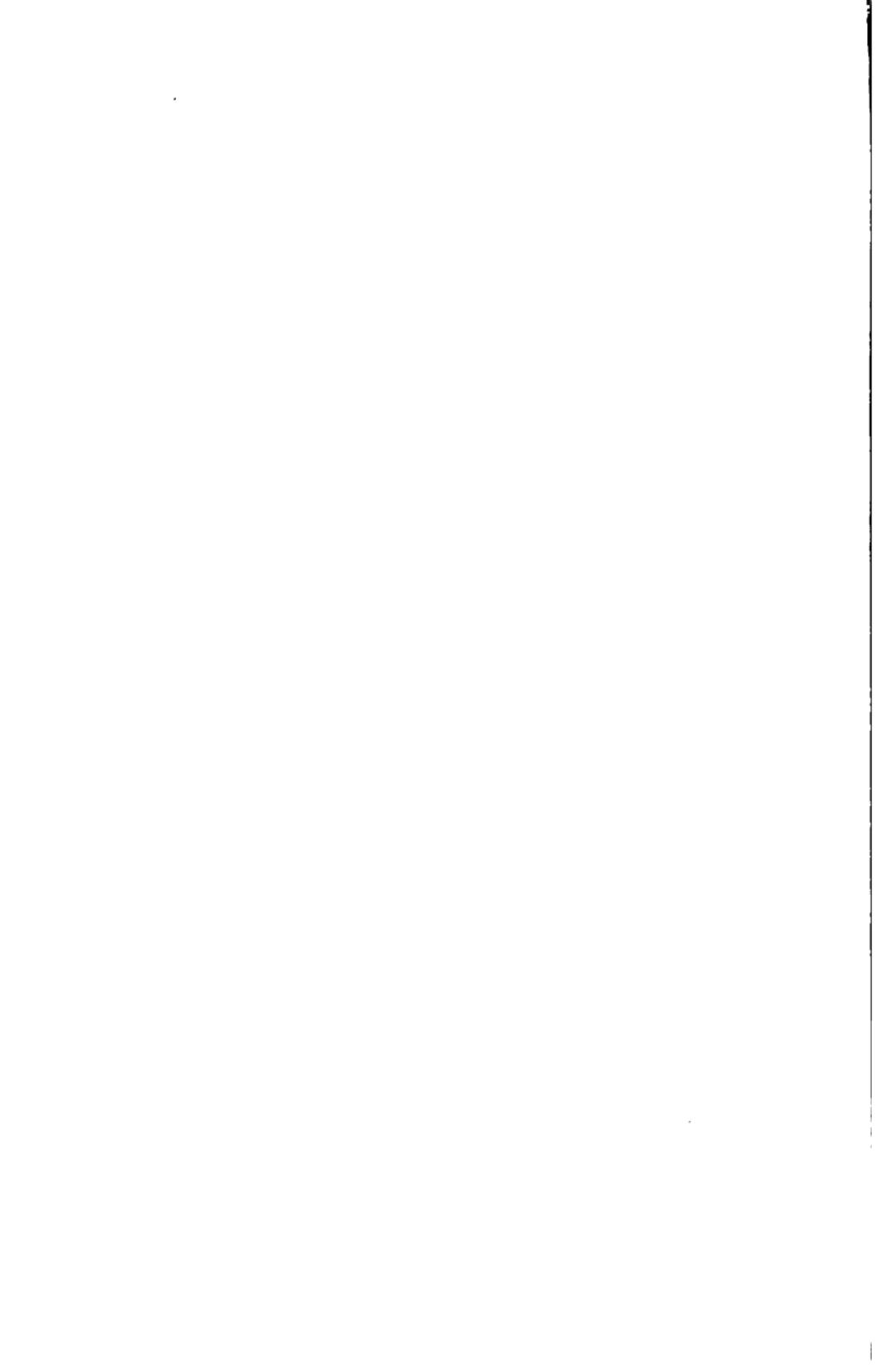
“ Welcome ! ” said he, “ Hiawatha,
To the kingdom of the West-Wind !
95 Long have I been waiting for you !
Youth is lovely, age is lonely,
Youth is fiery, age is frosty ;
You bring back the days departed,
You bring back my youth of passion,
100 And the beautiful Wenonah ! ”

Many days they talked together,
Questioned, listened, waited, answered ;
Much the mighty Mudjekeewis
Boasted of his ancient prowess,
105 Of his perilous adventures,
His indomitable courage,
His invulnerable body.

Patiently sat Hiawatha,
Listening to his father’s boasting ;
110 With a smile he sat and listened,
Uttered neither threat nor menace,



“Glared like Ishkoodah, the comet”



Neither word nor look betrayed him,
 But his heart was hot within him,
 Like a living coal his heart was.

115 Then he said, "O Mudjekeewis,
 Is there nothing that can harm you ?
 Nothing that you are afraid of ?"
 And the mighty Mudjekeewis,
 Grand and gracious in his boasting,
 120 Answered, saying, "There is nothing,
 Nothing but the black rock yonder,
 Nothing but the fatal Wawbeek !"

And he looked at Hiawatha
 With a wise look and benignant,
 125 With a countenance paternal,
 Looked with pride upon the beauty
 Of his tall and graceful figure,
 Saying, "O my Hiawatha !
 Is there anything can harm you ?
 130 Anything you are afraid of ?"

But the wary Hiawatha
 Paused awhile, as if uncertain,
 Held his peace, as if resolving,
 And then answered, "There is nothing,
 135 Nothing but the bulrush yonder,
 Nothing but the great Apukwa !"

And as Mudjekeewis, rising,
 Stretched his hand to pluck the bulrush,
 Hiawatha cried in terror,
 140 Cried in well-dissembled terror,
 "Kago ! kago ! do not touch it !"
 "Ah, kaween !" said Mudjekeewis,
 "No indeed, I will not touch it !"

Then they talked of other matters ;
 145 First of Hiawatha's brothers,

First of Wabun, of the East-Wind,
Of the South-Wind, Shawondasee,
Of the North, Kabibonokka ;
Then of Hiawatha's mother,
150 Of the beautiful Wenonah,
Of her birth upon the meadow,
Of her death, as old Nokomis
Had remembered and related.

And he cried, "O Mudjekeewis,
155 It was you who killed Wenonah,
Took her young life and her beauty,
Broke the Lily of the Prairie,
Trampled it beneath your footsteps ;
You confess it ! you confess it ! "

160 And the mighty Mudjekeewis
Tossed upon the wind his tresses,
Bowed his hoary head in anguish,
With a silent nod assented.

Then up started Hiawatha,
165 And with threatening look and gesture
Laid his hand upon the black rock,
On the fatal Wawbeek laid it,
With his mittens, Minjekahwun,
Rent the jutting crag asunder,
170 Smote and crushed it into fragments,
Hurled them madly at his father,
The remorseful Mudjekeewis,
For his heart was hot within him,
Like a living coal his heart was.

175 But the ruler of the West-Wind
Blew the fragments backward from him,
With the breathing of his nostrils,
With the tempest of his anger,
Blew them back at his assailant ;

180 Seized the bulrush, the Apukwa,
Dragged it with its roots and fibres
From the margin of the meadow,
From its ooze, the giant bulrush ;
Long and loud laughed Hiawatha !

185 Then began the deadly conflict,
Hand to hand among the mountains ;
From his eyry screamed the eagle,
The Keneu, the great war-eagle,
Sat upon the crags around them,

190 Wheeling flapped his wings above them.
Like a tall tree in the tempest
Bent and lashed the giant bulrush ;
And in masses huge and heavy
Crashing fell the fatal Wawbeek ;

195 Till the earth shook with the tumult
And confusion of the battle,
And the air was full of shoutings,
And the thunder of the mountains,
Starting, answered, " Baim-wawa ! "

200 Back retreated Mudjekeewis,
Rushing westward o'er the mountains,
Stumbling westward down the mountains,
Three whole days retreated fighting,
Still pursued by Hiawatha

205 To the doorways of the West-Wind,
To the portals of the Sunset,
To the earth's remotest border,
Where into the empty spaces
Sinks the sun, as a flamingo

210 Drops into her nest at nightfall,
In the melancholy marshes.
" Hold ! " at length cried Mudjekeewis,
" Hold, my son, my Hiawatha !

'T is impossible to kill me,

215 For you cannot kill the immortal.

I have put you to this trial,

But to know and prove your courage ;

Now receive the prize of valor !

“ Go back to your home and people,

220 Live among them, toil among them,

Cleanse the earth from all that harms it,

Clear the fishing-grounds and rivers,

Slay all monsters and magicians,

All the Wendigoes, the giants,

225 All the serpents, the Kenabeeks,

As I slew the Mishe-Mokwa,

Slew the Great Bear of the mountains.

“ And at last when Death draws near you,

When the awful eyes of Pauguk

230 Glare upon you in the darkness,

I will share my kingdom with you,

Ruler shall you be thenceforward

Of the Northwest-Wind, Keewaydin,

Of the home-wind, the Keewaydin.”

235 Thus was fought that famous battle

In the dreadful days of Shah-shah,

In the days long since departed,

In the kingdom of the West-Wind.

Still the hunter sees its traces

240 Scattered far o'er hill and valley ;

Sees the giant bulrush growing

By the ponds and water-courses,

Sees the masses of the Wawbeek

Lying still in every valley.

245 Homeward now went Hiawatha ;

Pleasant was the landscape round him,

Pleasant was the air above him,

For the bitterness of anger
Had departed wholly from him,
250 From his brain the thought of vengeance,
From his heart the burning fever.

Only once his pace he slackened,
Only once he paused or halted,
Paused to purchase heads of arrows
255 Of the ancient Arrow-maker,
In the land of the Dacotahs,
Where the Falls of Minnehaha
Flash and gleam among the oak-trees,
Laugh and leap into the valley.

260 There the ancient Arrow-maker
Made his arrow-heads of sandstone,
Arrow-heads of chalcedony,
Arrow-heads of flint and jasper,
Smoothed and sharpened at the edges,
265 Hard and polished, keen and costly.

With him dwelt his dark-eyed daughter,
Wayward as the Minnehaha,
With her moods of shade and sunshine,
Eyes that smiled and frowned alternate,
270 Feet as rapid as the river,
Tresses flowing like the water,
And as musical a laughter ;
And he named her from the river,
From the water-fall he named her,
275 Minnehaha, Laughing Water.

Was it then for heads of arrows,
Arrow-heads of chalcedony,

257. These Falls, located on the river of the same name, are sixty feet in height and are noted for their exceeding beauty. About five miles southeast of Minneapolis, they are one-half mile from the Mississippi.

Arrow-heads of flint and jasper,
 That my Hiawatha halted
 220 In the land of the Dacotahs ?

Was it not to see the maiden,
 See the face of Laughing Water
 Peeping from behind the curtain,
 Hear the rustling of her garments
 225 From behind the waving curtain,
 As one sees the Minnehaha
 Gleaming, glancing through the branches,
 As one hears the Laughing Water
 From behind its screen of branches ?

230 Who shall say what thoughts and visions
 Fill the fiery brains of young men ?
 Who shall say what dreams of beauty
 Filled the heart of Hiawatha ?
 All he told to old Nokomis,

235 When he reached the lodge at sunset,
 Was the meeting with his father,
 Was his fight with Mudjekeewis ;
 Not a word he said of arrows,
 Not a word of Laughing Water !

V.

HIAWATHA'S FASTING.

You shall hear how Hiawatha
 Prayed and fasted in the forest,
 Not for greater skill in hunting,
 Not for greater craft in fishing,
 5 Not for triumphs in the battle,
 And renown among the warriors,
 But for profit of the people,
 For advantage of the nations.

First he built a lodge for fasting,
10 Built a wigwam in the forest,
By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
In the blithe and pleasant Spring-time,
In the Moon of Leaves he built it,
And, with dreams and visions many,
15 Seven whole days and nights he fasted.

On the first day of his fasting
Through the leafy woods he wandered ;
Saw the deer start from the thicket,
Saw the rabbit in his burrow,
20 Heard the pheasant, Bena, drumming,
Heard the squirrel, Adjidaumo,
Rattling in his hoard of acorns,
Saw the pigeon, the Omeme,
Building nests among the pine-trees,
25 And in flocks the wild goose, Wawa,
Flying to the fen-lands northward,
Whirring, wailing far above him.
"Master of Life!" he cried, desponding,
"Must our lives depend on these things?"
30 On the next day of his fasting
By the river's brink he wandered,
Through the Muskoday, the meadow,
Saw the wild rice, Mahnomonee,
Saw the blueberry, Meenahga,
35 And the strawberry, Odahmin,
And the gooseberry, Shahbomin,
And the grape-vine, the Bemahgut,
Trailing o'er the alder-branches,
Filling all the air with fragrance !
40 "Master of Life!" he cried, desponding,
"Must our lives depend on these things?"

On the third day of his fasting
By the lake he sat and pondered,
By the still, transparent water ;

“ Saw the sturgeon, Nahma, leaping,
Scattering drops like beads of wampum,
Saw the yellow perch, the Sahwa,
Like a sunbeam in the water,
Saw the pike, the Maskenozha,

“ And the herring, Okahahwis,
And the Shawgashee, the craw-fish !

“ Master of Life ! ” he cried, desponding,
“ Must our lives depend on these things ? ”

On the fourth day of his fasting

“ In his lodge he lay exhausted ;
From his couch of leaves and branches
Gazing with half-open eyelids,
Full of shadowy dreams and visions,
On the dizzy, swimming landscape,

“ On the gleaming of the water,
On the splendor of the sunset.

And he saw a youth approaching,
Dressed in garments green and yellow,
Coming through the purple twilight,

“ Through the splendor of the sunset ;
Plumes of green bent o'er his forehead,
And his hair was soft and golden.

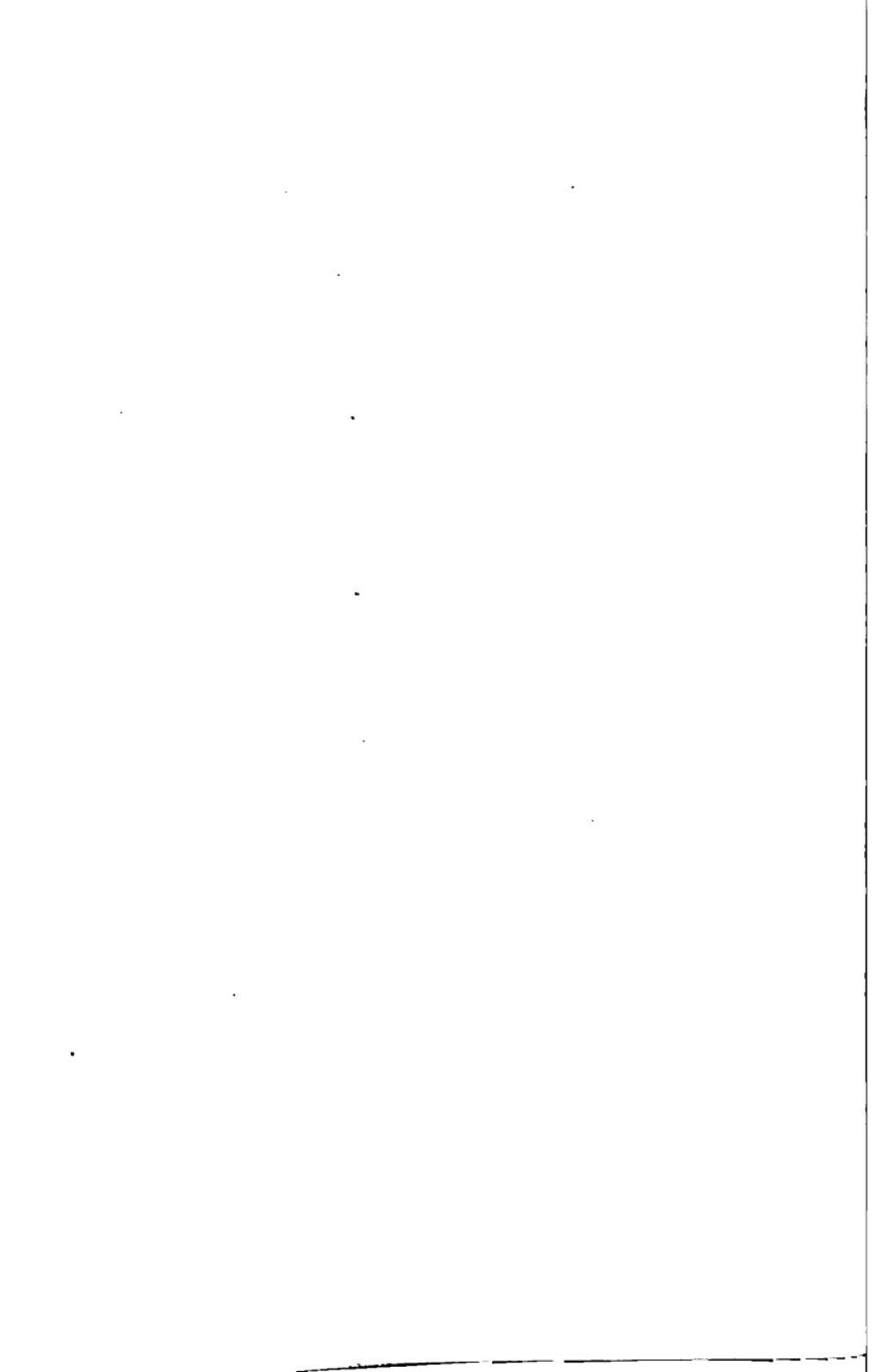
Standing at the open doorway,
Long he looked at Hiawatha,

“ Looked with pity and compassion
On his wasted form and features,
And, in accents like the sighing
Of the South-Wind in the tree-tops,
Said he, “ O my Hiawatha ! ”

“ All your prayers are heard in heaven,



“And he saw a youth approaching”



For you pray not like the others ;
Not for greater skill in hunting,
Not for greater craft in fishing,
Not for triumph in the battle,
80 Nor renown among the warriors,
But for profit of the people,
For advantage of the nations.

“ From the Master of Life descending,
I, the friend of man, Mondamin,
88 Come to warn you and instruct you,
How by struggle and by labor
You shall gain what you have prayed for.
Rise up from your bed of branches,
Rise, O youth, and wrestle with me ! ”

90 Faint with famine, Hiawatha
Started from his bed of branches,
From the twilight of his wigwam
Forth into the flush of sunset
Came, and wrestled with Mondamin ;

98 At his touch he felt new courage
Throbbing in his brain and bosom,
Felt new life and hope and vigor
Run through every nerve and fibre.

So they wrestled there together
100 In the glory of the sunset,
And the more they strove and struggled,
Stronger still grew Hiawatha ;
Till the darkness fell around them,
And the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
108 From her nest among the pine-trees,
Gave a cry of lamentation,
Gave a scream of pain and famine.

“ 'T is enough ! ” then said Mondamin,
Smiling upon Hiawatha,

110 "But to-morrow, when the sun sets,
I will come again to try you."
And he vanished, and was seen not;
Whether sinking as the rain sinks,
Whether rising as the mists rise,

111 Hiawatha saw not, knew not,
Only saw that he had vanished,
Leaving him alone and fainting,
With the misty lake below him,
And the reeling stars above him.

120 On the morrow and the next day,
When the sun through heaven descending,
Like a red and burning cinder
From the hearth of the Great Spirit,
Fell into the western waters,

125 Came Mondamin for the trial,
For the strife with Hiawatha;
Came as silent as the dew comes,
From the empty air appearing,
Into empty air returning,

130 Taking shape when earth it touches
But invisible to all men
In its coming and its going.
Thrice they wrestled there together
In the glory of the sunset,

135 Till the darkness fell around them,
Till the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
From her nest among the pine-trees,
Uttered her loud cry of famine,
And Mondamin paused to listen.

140 Tall and beautiful he stood there,
In his garments green and yellow;
To and fro his plumes above him
Waved and nodded with his breathing,

And the sweat of the encounter
145 Stood like drops of dew upon him.

And he cried, "O Hiawatha !
Bravely have you wrestled with me,
Thrice have wrestled stoutly with me,
And the Master of Life, who sees us,
150 He will give to you the triumph ! "

Then he smiled and said : " To-morrow
Is the last day of your conflict,
Is the last day of your fasting.
You will conquer and o'ercome me ;
155 Make a bed for me to lie in,
Where the rain may fall upon me,
Where the sun may come and warm me ;
Strip these garments, green and yellow,
Strip this nodding plumage from me,
160 Lay me in the earth and make it
Soft and loose and light above me.

" Let no hand disturb my slumber,
Let no weed nor worm molest me,
Let not Kahgahgee, the raven,
165 Come to haunt me and molest me,
Only come yourself to watch me,
Till I wake, and start, and quicken,
Till I leap into the sunshine."

And thus saying, he departed ;
170 Peacefully slept Hiawatha,
But he heard the Wawonaissa,
Heard the whippoorwill complaining,
Perched upon his lonely wigwam ;
Heard the rushing Sebowisha,
175 Heard the rivulet rippling near him,
Talking to the darksome forest ;
Heard the sighing of the branches,

As they lifted and subsided
At the passing of the night-wind,
180 Heard them, as one hears in slumber
Far-off murmurs, dreamy whispers :
Peacefully slept Hiawatha.

On the morrow came Nokomis,
On the seventh day of his fasting,
185 Came with food for Hiawatha,
Came imploring and bewailing,
Lest his hunger should o'ercome him,
Lest his fasting should be fatal.

But he tasted not, and touched not,
190 Only said to her, " Nokomis,
Wait until the sun is setting,
Till the darkness falls around us,
Till the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
Crying from the desolate marshes,
195 Tells us that the day is ended."

Homeward weeping went Nokomis,
Sorrowing for her Hiawatha,
Fearing lest his strength should fail him,
Lest his fasting should be fatal.

200 He meanwhile sat weary waiting
For the coming of Mondamin,
Till the shadows, pointing eastward,
Lengthened over field and forest,
Till the sun dropped from the heaven,
205 Floating on the waters westward,
As a red leaf in the Autumn
Falls and floats upon the water,
Falls and sinks into its bosom.

And behold ! the young Mondamin,
210 With his soft and shining tresses,
With his garments green and yellow,

With his long and glossy plumage,
Stood and beckoned at the doorway.
And as one in slumber walking,
215 Pale and haggard, but undaunted,
From the wigwam Hiawatha
Came and wrestled with Mondamin.

Round about him spun the landscape,
Sky and forest reeled together,
220 And his strong heart leaped within him,
As the sturgeon leaps and struggles
In a net to break its meshes.
Like a ring of fire around him
Blazed and flared the red horizon,
225 And a hundred suns seemed looking
At the combat of the wrestlers.

Suddenly upon the greensward
All alone stood Hiawatha,
Panting with his wild exertion,
230 Palpitating with the struggle ;
And before him, breathless, lifeless,
Lay the youth, with hair dishevelled,
Plumage torn, and garments tattered,
Dead he lay there in the sunset.

235 And victorious Hiawatha
Made the grave as he commanded,
Stripped the garments from Mondamin,
Stripped his tattered plumage from him,
Laid him in the earth, and made it
240 Soft and loose and light above him ;
And the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
From the melancholy moorlands,
Gave a cry of lamentation,
Gave a cry of pain and anguish !

245 Homeward then went Hiawatha

To the lodge of old Nokomis,
And the seven days of his fasting
Were accomplished and completed.
But the place was not forgotten

250 Where he wrestled with Mondamin ;
Nor forgotten nor neglected
Was the grave where lay Mondamin,
Sleeping in the rain and sunshine,
Where his scattered plumes and garments
255 Faded in the rain and sunshine.

Day by day did Hiawatha
Go to wait and watch beside it ;
Kept the dark mould soft above it,
Kept it clean from weeds and insects,
260 Drove away, with scoffs and shoutings,
Kahgahgee, the king of ravens.

Till at length a small green feather
From the earth shot slowly upward,
Then another and another,
265 And before the Summer ended
Stood the maize in all its beauty,
With its shining robes about it,
And its long, soft, yellow tresses ;
And in rapture Hiawatha
270 Cried aloud, " It is Mondamin !
Yes, the friend of man, Mondamin ! "

Then he called to old Nokomis
And Iagoo, the great boaster,
Showed them where the maize was growing,
275 Told them of his wondrous vision,
Of his wrestling and his triumph,
Of this new gift to the nations,
Which should be their food forever.

And still later, when the Autumn

280 Changed the long, green leaves to yellow,
 And the soft and juicy kernels
 Grew like wampum hard and yellow,
 Then the ripened ears he gathered,
 Stripped the withered husks from off them,
 285 As he once had stripped the wrestler,
 Gave the first Feast of Mondamin,
 And made known unto the people
 This new gift of the Great Spirit.

VI.

HIAWATHA'S FRIENDS.

Two good friends had Hiawatha,
 Singled out from all the others,
 Bound to him in closest union,
 And to whom he gave the right hand
 5 Of his heart, in joy and sorrow ;
 Chibiabos, the musician,
 And the very strong man, Kwasind.
 Straight between them ran the pathway,
 Never grew the grass upon it ;
 10 Singing birds, that utter falsehoods,
 Story-tellers, mischief-makers,
 Found no eager ear to listen,
 Could not breed ill-will between them,
 For they kept each other's counsel,
 15 Spake with naked hearts together,
 Pondering much and much contriving
 How the tribes of men might prosper.
 Most beloved by Hiawatha
 Was the gentle Chibiabos,
 20 He the best of all musicians,
 He the sweetest of all singers.

Beautiful and childlike was he,
 Brave as man is, soft as woman,
 Pliant as a wand of willow,
 ☐ Stately as a deer with antlers.

When he sang, the village listened;
 All the warriors gathered round him,
 All the women came to hear him;
 Now he stirred their souls to passion,
 ☐ Now he melted them to pity.

From the hollow reeds he fashioned
 Flutes so musical and mellow,
 That the brook, the Sebowisha,
 Ceased to murmur in the woodland,
 ☐ That the wood-birds ceased from singing,
 And the squirrel, Adjidaumo,
 Ceased his chatter in the oak-tree,
 And the rabbit, the Wabasso,
 Sat upright to look and listen.

“ Yes, the brook, the Sebowisha,
 Pausing, said, “ O Chibiabos,
 Teach my waves to flow in music,
 Softly as your words in singing ! ”

Yes, the bluebird, the Owaissa,
 ☐ Envious, said, “ O Chibiabos,
 Teach me tones as wild and wayward,
 Teach me songs as full of frenzy ! ”

Yes, the robin, the Opechee,
 Joyous, said, “ O Chibiabos,
 ☐ Teach me tones as sweet and tender,
 Teach me songs as full of gladness ! ”

And the whippoorwill, Wawonaissa,
 Sobbing, said, “ O Chibiabos,
 Teach me tones as melancholy,
 ☐ Teach me songs as full of sadness ! ”

All the many sounds of nature
 Borrowed sweetness from his singing ;
 All the hearts of men were softened
 By the pathos of his music ;
 ☺ For he sang of peace and freedom,
 Sang of beauty, love, and longing ;
 Sang of death, and life undying
 In the Islands of the Blessed,
 In the kingdom of Ponemah,
 ☺ In the land of the Hereafter.

Very dear to Hiawatha
 Was the gentle Chibiabos,
 He the best of all musicians,
 He the sweetest of all singers ;
 ☺ For his gentleness he loved him,
 And the magic of his singing.

Dear, too, unto Hiawatha
 Was the very strong man, Kwasind,
 He the strongest of all mortals,
 ☺ He the mightiest among many ;
 For his very strength he loved him,
 For his strength allied to goodness.

Idle in his youth was Kwasind,
 Very listless, dull, and dreamy,
 ☺ Never played with other children,
 Never fished and never hunted,
 Not like other children was he ;
 But they saw that much he fasted,
 Much his Manito entreated,
 ☺ Much besought his Guardian Spirit.

“Lazy Kwasind ! ” said his mother,
 “In my work you never help me !
 In the Summer you are roaming
 Idly in the fields and forests ;

80 In the Winter you are cowering
 O'er the firebrands in the wigwam !
 In the coldest days of Winter
 I must break the ice for fishing ;
 With my nets you never help me !

85 At the door my nets are hanging,
 Dripping, freezing with the water ;
 Go and wring them, Yenadizze !
 Go and dry them in the sunshine !”

Slowly, from the ashes, Kwasind

100 Rose, but made no angry answer ;
 From the lodge went forth in silence,
 Took the nets, that hung together,
 Dripping, freezing at the doorway ;
 Like a wisp of straw he wrung them,
 105 Like a wisp of straw he broke them,
 Could not wring them without breaking,
 Such the strength was in his fingers.

“ Lazy Kwasind ! ” said his father,
 “ In the hunt you never help me ;
 110 Every bow you touch is broken,
 Snapped asunder every arrow ;
 Yet come with me to the forest,
 You shall bring the hunting homeward.”

Down a narrow pass they wandered,
 115 Where a brooklet led them onward,
 Where the trail of deer and bison
 Marked the soft mud on the margin,
 Till they found all further passage
 Shut against them, barred securely
 120 By the trunks of trees uprooted,
 Lying lengthwise, lying crosswise,
 And forbidding further passage.

“ We must go back,” said the old man,
 “ O'er these logs we cannot clamber ;

125 Not a woodchuck could get through them,
 Not a squirrel clamber o'er them!"
 And straightway his pipe he lighted,
 And sat down to smoke and ponder.
 But before his pipe was finished,

130 Lo! the path was cleared before him:
 All the trunks had Kwasind lifted,
 To the right hand, to the left hand,
 Shot the pine-trees swift as arrows,
 Hurled the cedars light as lances.

135 "Lazy Kwasind!" said the young men,
 As they sported in the meadow;
 "Why standing idly looking at us,
 Leaning on the rock behind you?
 Come and wrestle with the others,

140 Let us pitch the quoit together!"

Lazy Kwasind made no answer,
 To their challenge made no answer,
 Only rose, and, slowly turning,
 Seized the huge rock in his fingers,

145 Tore it from its deep foundation,
 Poised it in the air a moment,
 Pitched it sheer into the river,
 Sheer into the swift Pauwating,
 Where it still is seen in Summer.

150 Once as down that foaming river,
 Down the rapids of Pauwating,
 Kwasind sailed with his companions,
 In the stream he saw a beaver,
 Saw Ahmeek, the King of Beavers,

155 Struggling with the rushing currents,
 Rising, sinking in the water.

Without speaking, without pausing,
 Kwasind leaped into the river,
 Plunged beneath the bubbling surface,
 160 Through the whirlpools chased the beaver,
 Followed him among the islands,
 Stayed so long beneath the water,
 That his terrified companions
 Cried, "Alas! good-by to Kwasind!
 165 We shall never more see Kwasind!"
 But he reappeared triumphant,
 And upon his shining shoulders
 Brought the beaver, dead and dripping,
 Brought the King of all the Beavers.
 170 And these two, as I have told you,
 Were the friends of Hiawatha,
 Chibabos, the musician,
 And the very strong man, Kwasind.
 Long they lived in peace together,
 175 Spake with naked hearts together,
 Pondering much and much contriving
 How the tribes of men might prosper.

VII.

HIAWATHA'S SAILING.

"GIVE me of your bark, O Birch-Tree!
 Of your yellow bark, O Birch-Tree!
 Growing by the rushing river,
 Tall and stately in the valley!
 I a light canoe will build me,
 Build a swift Cheemaun for sailing,
 That shall float upon the river,

Like a yellow leaf in Autumn,
Like a yellow water-lily!

10 "Lay aside your cloak, O Birch-Tree!
Lay aside your white-skin wrapper,
For the Summer-time is coming,
And the sun is warm in heaven,
And you need no white-skin wrapper!"

15 Thus aloud cried Hiawatha
In the solitary forest,
By the rushing Taquamenaw,
When the birds were singing gayly,
In the Moon of Leaves were singing,
20 And the sun, from sleep awaking,
Started up and said, "Behold me!
Gheezis, the great Sun, behold me!"

And the tree with all its branches
Rustled in the breeze of morning,
25 Saying, with a sigh of patience,
"Take my cloak, O Hiawatha!"
With his knife the tree he girdled;
Just beneath its lowest branches,
Just above the roots, he cut it,
30 Till the sap came oozing outward;
Down the trunk, from top to bottom,
Sheer he cleft the bark asunder,
With a wooden wedge he raised it,
Stripped it from the trunk unbroken.

35 "Give me of your boughs, O Cedar!
Of your strong and pliant branches,
My canoe to make more steady,
Make more strong and firm beneath me!"

Through the summit of the Cedar
40 Went a sound, a cry of horror,

17. A river of Chippewa county, Northeastern Michigan.

Went a murmur of resistance ;
 But it whispered, bending downward,
 “Take my boughs, O Hiawatha !”

Down he hewed the boughs of cedar,
 « Shaped them straightway to a framework,
 Like two bows he formed and shaped them,
 Like two bended bows together.

“ Give me of your roots, O Tamarack !
 Of your fibrous roots, O Larch-Tree !

» My canoe to bind together,
 So to bind the ends together
 That the water may not enter,
 That the river may not wet me !”

And the Larch, with all its fibres,
 « Shivered in the air of morning,
 Touched his forehead with its tassels,
 Said, with one long sigh of sorrow,
 “ Take them all, O Hiawatha !”

From the earth he tore the fibres,
 « Tore the tough roots of the Larch-Tree,
 Closely sewed the bark together,
 Bound it closely to the framework.

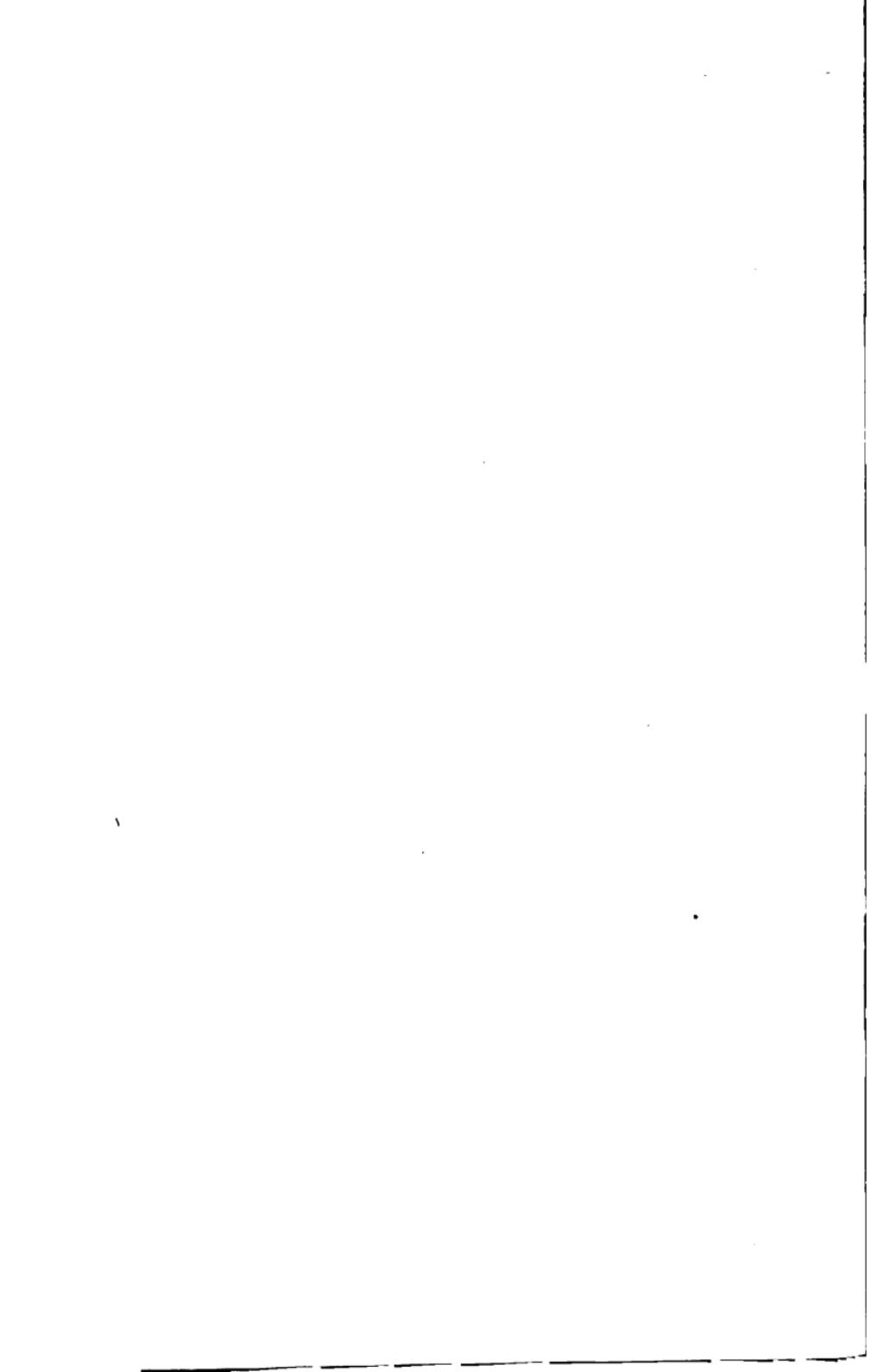
“ Give me of your balm, O Fir-Tree !
 Of your balsam and your resin,
 » So to close the seams together
 That the water may not enter,
 That the river may not wet me !”

And the Fir-Tree, tall and sombre,
 Sobbed through all its robes of darkness,
 » Rattled like a shore with pebbles,
 Answered wailing, answered weeping,
 “ Take my balm, O Hiawatha !”

And he took the tears of balsam,
 Took the resin of the Fir-Tree,



“Thus the birch canoe was builded”



75 Smeared therewith each seam and fissure,
Made each crevice safe from water.

“ Give me of your quills, O Hedgehog !
All your quills, O Kagh, the Hedgehog !
I will make a necklace of them,
80 Make a girdle for my beauty,

And two stars to deck her bosom ! ”

From a hollow tree the Hedgehog
With his sleepy eyes looked at him,
Shot his shining quills, like arrows,
85 Saying, with a drowsy murmur,

Through the tangle of his whiskers,
“ Take my quills, O Hiawatha ! ”

From the ground the quills he gathered,
All the little shining arrows,

90 Stained them red and blue and yellow,
With the juice of roots and berries ;
Into his canoe he wrought them,
Round its waist a shining girdle,
Round its bows a gleaming necklace,
95 On its breast two stars resplendent.

Thus the Birch Canoe was builded
In the valley, by the river,
In the bosom of the forest ;
And the forest's life was in it,

100 All its mystery and its magic,
All the lightness of the birch-tree,
All the toughness of the cedar,
All the larch's supple sinews ;
And it floated on the river,
105 Like a yellow leaf in Autumn,
Like a yellow water-lily.

106. “ The bark canoe of the Chippeways is, perhaps, the most beautiful and light model of all the water crafts that ever

Paddles none had Hiawatha,
 Paddles none he had or needed,
 For his thoughts as paddles served him,
 110 And his wishes served to guide him;

Swift or slow at will he glided,
 Veered to right or left at pleasure.

Then he called aloud to Kwasind,
 To his friend, the strong man, Kwasind,
 115 Saying, "Help me clear this river
 Of its sunken logs and sand-bars."

Straight into the river Kwasind
 Plunged as if he were an otter,
 Dived as if he were a beaver,
 120 Stood up to his waist in water,
 To his arm-pits in the river,
 Swam and shouted in the river,
 Tugged at sunken logs and branches,
 With his hands he scooped the sand-bars,
 125 With his feet the ooze and tangle.

And thus sailed my Hiawatha
 Down the rushing Taquamenaw,
 Sailed through all its bends and windings,
 Sailed through all its deeps and shallows,
 130 While his friend, the strong man, Kwasind,
 Swam the deeps, the shallows waded.

Up and down the river went they,
 In and out among its islands,
 Cleared its bed of root and sand-bar,
 135 Dragged the dead trees from its channel,

were invented. They are generally made complete with the rind of one birch-tree, and so ingeniously shaped, and sewed together with roots of the tamarack, which they call wattap, that they are water-tight and ride upon the water, as light as a cork." Catlin, p. 605.

Made its passage safe and certain,
 Made a pathway for the people,
 From its springs among the mountains,
 To the waters of Pauwating,
 140 To the bay of Taquamenaw.

VIII.

HIAWATHA'S FISHING.

FORTH upon the Gitche Gumee,
 On the shining Big-Sea-Water,
 With his fishing-line of cedar,
 Of the twisted bark of cedar,
 5 Forth to catch the sturgeon Nahma,
 Mishe-Nahma, King of Fishes
 In his birch canoe exulting
 All alone went Hiawatha.

Through the clear, transparent water
 10 He could see the fishes swimming
 Far down in the depths below him ;
 See the yellow perch, the Sahwa,
 Like a sunbeam in the water,
 See the Shawgashee, the craw-fish,
 15 Like a spider on the bottom,
 On the white and sandy bottom.

At the stern sat Hiawatha,
 With his fishing-line of cedar ;
 In his plumes the breeze of morning
 20 Played as in the hemlock branches ;
 On the bows, with tail erected,
 Sat the squirrel, Adjidaumo ;
 In his fur the breeze of morning
 Played as in the prairie grasses.

25 On the white sand of the bottom
Lay the monster Mishe-Nahma,
Lay the sturgeon, King of Fishes ;
Through his gills he breathed the water,
With his fins he fanned and winnowed,
20 With his tail he swept the sand-floor.

There he lay in all his armor ;
On each side a shield to guard him,
Plates of bone upon his forehead,
Down his sides and back and shoulders
25 Plates of bone with spine projecting,
Painted was he with his war-paints,
Stripes of yellow, red, and azure,
Spots of brown and spots of sable ;
And he lay there on the bottom,
30 Fanning with his fins of purple,
As above him Hiawatha
In his birch canoe came sailing,
With his fishing-line of cedar.

“Take my bait !” cried Hiawatha,
45 Down into the depths beneath him,
“Take my bait, O Sturgeon, Nahma !
Come up from below the water,
Let us see which is the stronger !”
And he dropped his line of cedar
50 Through the clear, transparent water,
Waited vainly for an answer,
Long sat waiting for an answer,
And repeating loud and louder,
“Take my bait, O King of Fishes !”
55 Quiet lay the sturgeon, Nahma,
Fanning slowly in the water,
Looking up at Hiawatha,
Listening to his call and clamor,

His unnecessary tumult,
• Till he wearied of the shouting ;
And he said to the Kenozha,
To the pike, the Maskenozha,
“ Take the bait of this rude fellow,
Break the line of Hiawatha ! ”

• In his fingers Hiawatha
Felt the loose line jerk and tighten ;
As he drew it in, it tugged so,
That the birch canoe stood endwise,
Like a birch log in the water,
• With the squirrel, Adjidaumo,
Perched and frisking on the summit.
Full of scorn was Hiawatha
When he saw the fish rise upward,
Saw the pike, the Maskenozha,
• Coming nearer, nearer to him,
And he shouted through the water,
“ Esa ! esa ! shame upon you !
You are but the pike, Kenozha,
You are not the fish I wanted,
• You are not the King of Fishes ! ”

Reeling downward to the bottom
Sank the pike in great confusion,
And the mighty sturgeon, Nahma,
Said to Ugudwash, the sun-fish,
• To the bream, with scales of crimson,
“ Take the bait of this great boaster,
Break the line of Hiawatha ! ”

Slowly upward, wavering, gleaming,
Rose the Ugudwash, the sun-fish,
• Seized the line of Hiawatha,
Swung with all his weight upon it,
Made a whirlpool in the water,

Whirled the birch canoe in circles,
Round and round in gurgling eddies,
as Till the circles in the water
Reached the far-off sandy beaches,
Till the water-flags and rushes
Nodded on the distant margins.

But when Hiawatha saw him
100 Slowly rising through the water,
Lifting up his disk resplendent,
Loud he shouted in derision,
“Esa! esa! shame upon you!
You are Ugudwash, the sun-fish,
105 You are not the fish I wanted,
You are not the King of Fishes!”

Slowly downward, wavering, gleaming,
Sank the Ugudwash, the sun-fish,
And again the sturgeon, Nahma,
110 Heard the shout of Hiawatha,
Heard his challenge of defiance,
The unnecessary tumult,
Ringing far across the water.

From the white sand of the bottom
115 Up he rose with angry gesture,
Quivering in each nerve and fibre,
Clashing all his plates of armor,
Gleaming bright with all his war-paint;
In his wrath he darted upward,
120 Flashing leaped into the sunshine,
Opened his great jaws, and swallowed
Both canoe and Hiawatha.

Down into that darksome cavern
Plunged the headlong Hiawatha,
125 As a log on some black river
Shoots and plunges down the rapids,

Found himself in utter darkness,
Groped about in helpless wonder,
Till he felt a great heart beating,
120 Throbbing in that utter darkness.

And he smote it in his anger,
With his fist, the heart of Nahma,
Felt the mighty King of Fishes
Shudder through each nerve and fibre,
135 Heard the water gurgle round him
As he leaped and staggered through it,
Sick at heart, and faint and weary.

Crosswise then did Hiawatha
Drag his birch-canoe for safety,
140 Lest from out the jaws of Nahma,
In the turmoil and confusion,
Forth he might be hurled and perish.
And the squirrel, Adjidaumo,
Frisked and chattered very gayly,
145 Toiled and tugged with Hiawatha
Till the labor was completed.

Then said Hiawatha to him,
“O my little friend, the squirrel,
Bravely have you toiled to help me;
150 Take the thanks of Hiawatha,
And the name which now he gives you;
For hereafter and forever
Boys shall call you Adjidaumo,
Tail-in-air the boys shall call you!”

155 And again the sturgeon, Nahma,
Gasped and quivered in the water,
Then was still, and drifted landward
Till he grated on the pebbles,
Till the listening Hiawatha
160 Heard him grate upon the margin,

Felt him strand upon the pebbles,
Knew that Nahma, King of Fishes,
Lay there dead upon the margin.

Then he heard a clang and flapping,

165 As of many wings assembling,
Heard a screaming and confusion,
As of birds of prey contending,
Saw a gleam of light above him,
Shining through the ribs of Nahma,
170 Saw the glittering eyes of sea-gulls,
Of Kayoshk, the sea-gulls, peering,
Gazing at him through the opening,
Heard them saying to each other,
“ ‘T is our brother, Hiawatha ! ”

175 And he shouted from below them,
Cried exulting from the caverns :
“ O ye sea-gulls ! O my brothers !
I have slain the sturgeon, Nahma ;
Make the rifts a little larger,

180 With your claws the openings widen,
Set me free from this dark prison,
And henceforward and forever
Men shall speak of your achievements,
Calling you Kayoshk, the sea-gulls,
185 Yes, Kayoshk, the Noble Scratchers ! ”

And the wild and clamorous sea-gulls
Toiled with beak and claws together,
Made the rifts and openings wider
In the mighty ribs of Nahma,
190 And from peril and from prison,
From the body of the sturgeon,
From the peril of the water,
They released my Hiawatha.

He was standing near his wigwam,

195 On the margin of the water,

And he called to old Nokomis,
 Called and beckoned to Nokomis,
 Pointed to the sturgeon, Nahma,
 Lying lifeless on the pebbles,
 200 With the sea-gulls feeding on him.
 "I have slain the Mishe-Nahma,
 Slain the King of Fishes!" said he;
 "Look! the sea-gulls feed upon him,
 Yes, my friends Kayoshk, the sea-gulls;
 205 Drive them not away, Nokomis,
 They have saved me from great peril
 In the body of the sturgeon,
 Wait until their meal is ended,
 Till their caws are full with feasting,
 210 Till they homeward fly, at sunset,
 To their nests among the marshes;
 Then bring all your pots and kettles,
 And make oil for us in Winter."

And she waited till the sun set,
 215 Till the pallid moon, the Night-sun,
 Rose above the tranquil water,
 Till Kayoshk, the sated sea-gulls,
 From their banquet rose with clamor,
 And across the fiery sunset
 220 Winged their way to far-off islands,
 To their nests among the rushes.
 To his sleep went Hiawatha,
 And Nokomis to her labor,
 Toiling patient in the moonlight,
 225 Till the sun and moon changed places,
 Till the sky was red with sunrise,
 And Kayoshk, the hungry sea-gulls,
 Came back from the reedy islands,
 Clamorous for their morning banquet.
 230 Three whole days and nights alternate

Old Nokomis and the sea-gulls
 Stripped the oily flesh of Nahma,
 Till the waves washed through the rib-bones,
 Till the sea-gulls came no longer,
 25 And upon the sands lay nothing
 But the skeleton of Nahma.

IX.

HIAWATHA AND THE PEARL-FEATHER.

ON the shores of Gitche Gumee,
 Of the shining Big-Sea-Water,
 Stood Nokomis, the old woman,
 Pointing with her finger westward,
 5 O'er the water pointing westward,
 To the purple clouds of sunset.
 Fiercely the red sun descending
 Burned his way along the heavens,
 Set the sky on fire behind him,
 10 As war-parties, when retreating,
 Burn the prairies on their war-trail;
 And the moon, the Night-sun, eastward,
 Suddenly starting from his ambush,
 Followed fast those bloody footprints,
 15 Followed in that fiery war-trail,
 With its glare upon his features.

And Nokomis, the old woman,
 Pointing with her finger westward,
 Spake these words to Hiawatha :
 20 " Yonder dwells the great Pearl-Feather,
 Megissogwon, the Magician,
 Manito of Wealth and Wampum,
 Guarded by his fiery serpents,

Guarded by the black pitch-water.

25 You can see his fiery serpents,
The Kenabeeek, the great serpents,
Coiling, playing in the water ;
You can see the black pitch-water
Stretching far away beyond them,
30 To the purple clouds of sunset !

“ He it was who slew my father,
By his wicked wiles and cunning,
When he from the moon descended,
When he came on earth to seek me.

35 He, the mightiest of Magicians,
Sends the fever from the marshes,
Sends the pestilential vapors,
Sends the poisonous exhalations,
Sends the white fog from the fen-lands,
40 Sends disease and death among us !

“ Take your bow, O Hiawatha,
Take your arrows, jasper-headed,
Take your war-club, Puggawaugun,
And your mittens, Minjekahwun,
45 And your birch canoe for sailing,
And the oil of Mishe-Nahma,
So to smear its sides, that swiftly
You may pass the black pitch-water ;
Slay this merciless magician,
50 Save the people from the fever
That he breathes across the fen-lands,
And avenge my father’s murder ! ”

Straightway then my Hiawatha
Armed himself with all his war-gear,
55 Launched his birch canoe for sailing ;
With his palm its sides he patted,
Said with glee, “ Cheemaun, my darling,

O my Birch-canoe ! leap forward,
Where you see the fiery serpents,
 Where you see the black pitch-water ! ”

Forward leaped Cheemaun exulting,
And the Noble Hiawatha
Sang his war-song wild and woful,
And above him the war-eagle,
 The Keneu, the great war-eagle,
Master of all fowls with feathers,
Screamed and hurtled through the heavens.

Soon he reached the fiery serpents,
The Kenabeek, the great serpents,
 Lying huge upon the water,
Sparkling, rippling in the water,
Lying coiled across the passage,
With their blazing crests uplifted,
Breathing fiery fogs and vapors,
 So that none could pass beyond them.

But the fearless Hiawatha
Cried aloud, and spake in this wise :
“ Let me pass my way, Kenabeek,
Let me go upon my journey ! ”

 And they answered, hissing fiercely,
With their fiery breath made answer :
“ Back, go back ! O Shaugodaya !
Back to old Nokomis, Faint-heart ! ”

Then the angry Hiawatha
 Raised his mighty bow of ash-tree,
Seized his arrows, jasper-headed,
Shot them fast among the serpents ;
Every twanging of the bow-string
Was a war-cry and a death-cry.

 Every whizzing of an arrow
Was a death-song of Kenabeek.

Weltering in the bloody water,
Dead lay all the fiery serpents,
And among them Hiawatha
95 Harmless sailed, and cried exulting :
“Onward, O Cheemaun, my darling !
Onward to the black pitch-water !”
Then he took the oil of Nahma,
And the bows and sides anointed,
100 Smeared them well with oil, that swiftly
He might pass the black pitch-water.
All night long he sailed upon it,
Sailed upon that sluggish water,
Covered with its mould of ages,
105 Black with rotting water-rushes,
Rank with flags and leaves of lilies,
Stagnant, lifeless, dreary, dismal,
Lighted by the shimmering moonlight,
And by will-o’-the-wisps illumined,
110 Fires by ghosts of dead men kindled,
In their weary night-encampments.
All the air was white with moonlight,
All the water black with shadow,
And around him the Suggema,
115 The mosquito, sang his war-song,
And the fire-flies, Wah-wah-taysee,
Waved their torches to mislead him ;
And the bull-frog, the Dahinda,
Thrust his head into the moonlight,
120 Fixed his yellow eyes upon him,
Sobbed and sank beneath the surface ;
And anon a thousand whistles,
Answered over all the fen-lands,
And the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,

125 Far off on the reedy margin,
Heralded the hero's coming.

Westward thus fared Hiawatha,
Toward the realm of Megissogwon,
Toward the land of the Pearl-Feather,
130 Till the level moon stared at him,
In his face stared pale and haggard,
Till the sun was hot behind him,
Till it burned upon his shoulders,
And before him on the upland
135 He could see the Shining Wigwam
Of the Manito of Wampum,
Of the mightiest of Magicians.

Then once more Cheemaun he patted,
To his birch-canoe said, "Onward!"
140 And it stirred in all its fibres,
And with one great bound of triumph
Leaped across the water-lilies,
Leaped through tangled flags and rushes,
And upon the beach beyond them
145 Dry-shod landed Hiawatha.

Straight he took his bow of ash-tree,
On the sand one end he rested,
With his knee he pressed the middle,
Stretched the faithful bow-string tighter,
150 Took an arrow, jasper-headed,
Shot it at the Shining Wigwam,
Sent it singing as a herald,
As a bearer of his message,
Of his challenge loud and lofty:
155 "Come forth from your lodge, Pearl-Feather!
Hiawatha waits your coming!"

Straightway from the Shining Wigwam
Came the mighty Megissogwon,

Tall of stature, broad of shoulder,
160 Dark and terrible in aspect,
Clad from head to foot in wampum,
Armed with all his warlike weapons,
Painted like the sky of morning,
Streaked with crimson, blue and yellow,
165 Crested with great eagle-feathers,
Streaming upward, streaming outward.

“ Well I know you, Hiawatha ! ”
Cried he in a voice of thunder,
In a tone of loud derision.

170 “ Haste back, O Shaugodaya !
Haste back among the women,
Back to old Nokomis, Faint-heart !
I will slay you as you stand there,
As of old I slew her father ! ”

175 But my Hiawatha answered,
Nothing daunted, fearing nothing :
“ Big words do not smite like war-clubs,
Boastful breath is not a bow-string,
Taunts are not so sharp as arrows,
180 Deeds are better things than words are,
Actions mightier than boastings ! ”

Then began the greatest battle
That the sun had ever looked on,
That the war-birds ever witnessed.

185 All a Summer’s day it lasted,
From the sunrise to the sunset ;
For the shafts of Hiawatha
Harmless hit the shirt of wampum,
Harmless fell the blows he dealt it
190 With his mittens, Minjekahwun,
Harmless fell the heavy war-club ;
It could dash the rocks asunder,

But it could not break the meshes
Of that magic shirt of wampum.

186 Till at sunset Hiawatha,
Leaning on his bow of ash-tree,
Wounded, weary, and desponding,
With his mighty war-club broken,
With his mittens torn and tattered,

200 And three useless arrows only,
Paused to rest beneath a pine-tree,
From whose branches trailed the mosses,
And whose trunk was coated over
With the Dead-man's Moccasin-leather,
205 With the fungus white and yellow.

Suddenly from the boughs above him
Sang the Mama, the woodpecker :
" Aim your arrows, Hiawatha,
At the head of Megissogwon,
210 Strike the tuft of hair upon it,
At their roots the long black tresses ;
There alone can he be wounded ! "

Winged with feathers, tipped with jasper,
Swift flew Hiawatha's arrow,
215 Just as Megissogwon, stooping,
Raised a heavy stone to throw it.
Full upon the crown it struck him,
At the roots of his long tresses,
And he reeled and staggered forward,
220 Plunging like a wounded bison,
Yes, like Pezhekee, the bison,
When the snow is on the prairie.

Swifter flew the second arrow,
In the pathway of the other,
225 Piercing deeper than the other,
Wounded sorer than the other ;

And the knees of Megissogwon
Shook like windy reeds beneath him,
Bent and trembled like the rushes.

230 But the third and latest arrow
Swiftest flew, and wounded sorest,
And the mighty Megissogwon
Saw the fiery eyes of Pauguk,
Saw the eyes of Death glare at him,
235 Heard his voice call in the darkness ;
At the feet of Hiawatha
Lifeless lay the great Pearl-Feather,
Lay the mightiest of Magicians.

Then the grateful Hiawatha
240 Called the Mama, the woodpecker,
From his perch among the branches
Of the melancholy pine-tree,
And, in honor of his service,
Stained with blood the tuft of feathers
245 On the little head of Mama ;
Even to this day he wears it,
Wears the tuft of crimson feathers
As a symbol of his service.

Then he stripped the shirt of wampum
250 From the back of Megissogwon,
As a trophy of the battle,
As a signal of his conquest.
On the shore he left the body,
Half on land and half in water,
255 In the sand his feet were buried,
And his face was in the water.
And above him, wheeled and clamored
The Keneu, the great war-eagle,
Sailing round in narrower circles,
260 Hovering nearer, nearer, nearer.

From the wigwam Hiawatha
 Bore the wealth of Megissogwon,
 All his wealth of skins and wampum,
 Furs of bison and of beaver,
 265 Furs of sable and of ermine,
 Wampum belts and strings and pouches,
 Quivers wrought with beads of wampum,
 Filled with arrows, silver-headed.

Homeward then he sailed exulting,
 270 Homeward through the black pitch-water,
 Homeward through the weltering serpents,
 With the trophies of the battle,
 With a shout and song of triumph.

On the shore stood old Nokomis,
 275 On the shore stood Chibiabos,
 And the very strong man, Kwasind,
 Waiting for the hero's coming,
 Listening to his song of triumph.
 And the people of the village
 280 Welcomed him with songs and dances,
 Made a joyous feast, and shouted :
 " Honor be to Hiawatha !
 He has slain the great Pearl-Feather,
 Slain the mightiest of Magicians,
 285 Him who sent the fiery fever,
 Sent the white fog from the fen-lands,
 Sent disease and death among us ! "

Ever dear to Hiawatha
 Was the memory of Mama !

290 And in token of his friendship,
 As a mark of his remembrance,
 He adorned and decked his pipe-stem
 With the crimson tuft of feathers,
 With the blood-red crest of Mama.

286 But the wealth of Megissogwon,
All the trophies of the battle,
He divided with his people,
Shared it equally among them.

X.

HIAWATHA'S WOOING.

“ As unto the bow the cord is,
So unto the man is woman,
Though she bends him, she obeys him,
Though she draws him, yet she follows,
8 Useless each without the other ! ”

Thus the youthful Hiawatha
Said within himself and pondered,
Much perplexed by various feelings,
Listless, longing, hoping, fearing,
10 Dreaming still of Minnehaha,
Of the lovely Laughing Water,
In the land of the Dacotahs.

“ Wed a maiden of your people,”
Warning said the old Nokomis ;
15 “ Go not eastward, go not westward,
For a stranger, whom we know not !
Like a fire upon the hearth-stone
Is a neighbor’s homely daughter,
Like the starlight or the moonlight
20 Is the handsomest of strangers ! ”

Thus dissuading spake Nokomis,

5. This passage is, perhaps, more often quoted than any other of the many familiar sentiments of the Poem.

20. These six verses, in their repeated use, are second only to those noted above.

And my Hiawatha answered
Only this: "Dear old Nokomis,
Very pleasant is the firelight,
•• But I like the starlight better,
Better do I like the moonlight!"

Gravely then said old Nokomis:
"Bring not here an idle maiden,
Bring not here a useless woman,
•• Hands unskilful, feet unwilling;
Bring a wife with nimble fingers,
Heart and hand that move together,
Feet that run on willing errands!"

Smiling answered Hiawatha:
•• "In the land of the Dacotahs
Lives the Arrow-maker's daughter,
Minnehaha, Laughing Water,
Handsomest of all the women.
I will bring her to your wigwam,
•• She shall run upon your errands,
Be your starlight, moonlight, firelight,
Be the sunlight of my people!"

Still dissuading said Nokomis:
"Bring not to my lodge a stranger
•• From the land of the Dacotahs!
Very fierce are the Dacotahs,
Often is there war between us,
There are feuds yet unforgotten,
Wounds that ache and still may open!"

•• Laughing answered Hiawatha:
"For that reason, if no other,
Would I wed the fair Dacotah,
That our tribes might be united,
That old feuds might be forgotten,
•• And old wounds be healed forever!"

Thus departed Hiawatha
To the land of the Dacotahs,
To the land of handsome women ;
Striding over moor and meadow,
Through interminable forests,
Through uninterrupted silence.

With his moccasins of magic,
At each stride a mile he measured ;
Yet the way seemed long before him,
And his heart outrun his footsteps ;
And he journeyed without resting,
Till he heard the cataract's laughter,
Heard the Falls of Minnehaha
Calling to him through the silence.
" Pleasant is the sound ! " he murmured,
" Pleasant is the voice that calls me ! "

On the outskirts of the forest,
'Twixt the shadow and the sunshine,
Herds of fallow deer were feeding,
But they saw not Hiawatha ;
To his bow he whispered, " Fail not ! "
To his arrow whispered, " Swerve not ! "
Sent it singing on its errand,
To the red heart of the roebuck ;
Threw the deer across his shoulder,
And sped forward without pausing.

At the doorway of his wigwam
Sat the ancient Arrow-maker,
In the land of the Dacotahs,
Making arrow-heads of jasper,
Arrow-heads of chalcedony.
At his side, in all her beauty,
Sat the lovely Minnehaha,
Sat his daughter, Laughing Water,

80 Plaiting mats of flags and rushes ;
Of the past the old man's thoughts were,
And the maiden's of the future.

He was thinking, as he sat there,
Of the days when with such arrows
85 He had struck the deer and bison,
On the Muskoday, the meadow ;
Shot the wild goose, flying southward,
On the wing, the clamorus Wawa ;
Thinking of the great war-parties,
100 How they came to buy his arrows,
Could not fight without his arrows.

Ah, no more such noble warriors
Could be found on earth as they were !
Now the men were all like women,
105 Only used their tongues for weapons !

She was thinking of a hunter,
From another tribe and country,
Young and tall and very handsome,
Who one morning, in the Spring-time,
110 Came to buy her father's arrows,
Sat and rested in the wigwam,
Lingered long about the doorway,
Looking back as he departed.

She had heard her father praise him,
115 Praise his courage and his wisdom ;
Would he come again for arrows
To the Falls of Minnehaha ?
On the mat her hands lay idle,
And her eyes were very dreamy.

120 Through their thoughts they heard a footstep,
Heard a rustling in the branches,
And with glowing cheek and forehead,
With the deer upon his shoulders,

Suddenly from out the woodlands
 125 Hiawatha stood before them.

Straight the ancient Arrow-maker
 Looked up gravely from his labor,
 Laid aside the unfinished arrow,
 Bade him enter at the doorway,
 130 Saying, as he rose to meet him,
 "Hiawatha, you are welcome!"

At the feet of Laughing Water
 Hiawatha laid his burden,
 Threw the red deer from his shoulders;
 135 And the maiden looked up at him,
 Looked up from her mat of rushes,
 Said with gentle look and accent,
 "You are welcome, Hiawatha!"

Very spacious was the wigwam,
 140 Made of deer-skin dressed and whitened,
 With the Gods of the Dacotahs
 Drawn and painted on its curtains,
 And so tall the doorway, hardly
 Hiawatha stooped to enter,
 145 Hardly touched his eagle-feathers
 As he entered at the doorway.

Then uprose the Laughing Water,
 From the ground fair Minnehaha,
 Laid aside her mat unfinished,
 150 Brought forth food and set before them,
 Water brought them from the brooklet,
 Gave them food in earthen vessels,
 Gave them drink in bowls of bass-wood,
 Listened while the guest was speaking,
 155 Listened while her father answered,
 But not once her lips she opened,
 Not a single word she uttered.

Yes, as in a dream she listened
To the words of Hiawatha,
120 As he talked of old Nokomis,
Who had nursed him in his childhood,
As he told of his companions,
Chibiabos, the musician,
And the very strong man, Kwasind,
135 And of happiness and plenty
In the land of the Ojibways,
In the pleasant land and peaceful.

“ After many years of warfare,
Many years of strife and bloodshed,
170 There is peace between the Ojibways
And the tribe of the Dacotahs.”
Thus continued Hiawatha,
And then added, speaking slowly,
“ That this peace may last forever,
175 And our hands be clasped more closely,
And our hearts be more united,
Give me as my wife this maiden,
Minnehaha, Laughing Water,
Loveliest of Dacotah women ! ”

180 And the ancient Arrow-maker
Paused a moment ere he answered,
Smoked a little while in silence,
Looked at Hiawatha proudly,
Fondly looked at Laughing Water,
185 And made answer very gravely :
“ Yes, if Minnehaha wishes ;
Let your heart speak, Minnehaha ! ”

And the lovely Laughing Water
Seemed more lovely, as she stood there,
190 Neither willing nor reluctant,
As she went to Hiawatha,

Softly took the seat beside him,
While she said, and blushed to say it,
"I will follow you, my husband!"

196 This was Hiawatha's wooing!
Thus it was he won the daughter
Of the ancient Arrow-maker,
In the land of the Dacotahs!
From the wigwam he departed,
200 Leading with him Laughing Water;
Hand in hand they went together,
Through the woodland and the meadow,
Left the old man standing lonely
At the doorway of his wigwam,
205 Heard the Falls of Minnehaha
Calling to them from the distance,
Crying to them from afar off,
"Fare thee well, O Minnehaha!"
And the ancient Arrow-maker
210 Turned again unto his labor,
Sat down by his sunny doorway,
Murmuring to himself, and saying:
"Thus it is our daughters leave us,
Those we love, and those who love us!
215 Just when they have learned to help us,
When we are old and lean upon them,
Comes a youth with flaunting feathers,
With his flute of reeds, a stranger
Wanders piping through the village,
220 Beckons to the fairest maiden,
And she follows where he leads her,
Leaving all things for the stranger!"
Pleasant was the journey homeward,
Through interminable forests,
225 Over meadow, over mountain,

Over river, hill, and hollow.
Short it seemed to Hiawatha,
Though they journeyed very slowly,
Though his pace he checked and slackened
220 To the steps of Laughing Water.

Over wide and rushing rivers
In his arms he bore the maiden ;
Light he thought her as a feather,
As the plume upon his head-gear ;
225 Cleared the tangled pathway for her,
Bent aside the swaying branches,
Made at night a lodge of branches,
And a bed with boughs of hemlock,
And a fire before the doorway
230 With the dry cones of the pine-tree.

All the travelling winds went with them,
O'er the meadow, through the forest :
All the stars of night looked at them,
Watched with sleepless eyes their slumber ;
235 From his ambush in the oak-tree
Peeped the squirrel, Adjidaumo,
Watched with eager eyes the lovers ;
And the rabbit, the Wabasso,
Scampered from the path before them,
240 Peering, peeping from his burrow,
Sat erect upon his haunches,
Watched with curious eyes the lovers.

Pleasant was the journey homeward !
All the birds sang loud and sweetly
245 Songs of happiness and heart's-ease ;
Sang the bluebird, the Owaissa,
“ Happy are you, Hiawatha,
Having such a wife to love you ! ”
Sang the robin, the Opechee,

260 "Happy are you, Laughing Water,
Having such a noble husband!"

From the sky the sun benignant
Looked upon them through the branches,
Saying to them, "O my children,
265 Love is sunshine, hate is shadow,
Life is checkered shade and sunshine,
Rule by love, O Hiawatha!"

From the sky the moon looked at them,
Filled the lodge with mystic splendors,
270 Whispered to them, "O my children,
Day is restless, night is quiet,
Man imperious, woman feeble;
Half is mine, although I follow;
Rule by patience, Laughing Water!"

275 Thus it was they journeyed homeward;
Thus it was that Hiawatha
To the lodge of old Nokomis
Brought the moonlight, starlight, firelight,
Brought the sunshine of his people,
280 Minnehaha, Laughing Water,
Handsomest of all the women
In the land of the Dacotahs,
In the land of handsome women.



THE SONG OF HIAWATHA.

XI.

HIAWATHA'S WEDDING-FEAST.

YOU shall hear how Pau-Puk-Keewis,
How the handsome Yenadizze
Danced at Hiawatha's wedding ;
How the gentle Chibiabos,
5 He the sweetest of musicians,
Sang his songs of love and longing ;
How Iagoo, the great boaster,
He the marvellous story-teller,
Told his tales of strange adventure,
10 That the feast might be more joyous,
That the time might pass more gayly,
And the guests be more contented.

Sumptuous was the feast Nokomis
Made at Hiawatha's wedding ;

15 All the bowls were made of bass-wood,
White and polished very smoothly,
All the spoons of horn of bison,
Black and polished very smoothly.

She had sent through all the village
20 Messengers with wands of willow,
As a sign of invitation,
As a token of the feasting ;
And the wedding guests assembled,

Clad in all their richest raiment,
 29 Robes of fur and belts of wampum,
 Splendid with their paint and plumage,
 Beautiful with beads and tassels.

First they ate the sturgeon, Nahma,
 And the pike, the Maskenozha,
 30 Caught and cooked by old Nokomis ;
 Then on pemican they feasted,
 Pemican and buffalo marrow,
 Haunch of deer and hump of bison,
 Yellow cakes of the Mondamin,
 35 And the wild rice of the river.

But the gracious Hiawatha,
 And the lovely Laughing Water,
 And the careful old Nokomis,
 Tasted not the food before them,
 40 Only waited on the others,
 Only served their guests in silence.

32. "The dish of 'pemican and marrow fat' of which I spoke was thus: The first an article of food used throughout this country as familiarly as we use bread in the civilized world. It is made of buffalo meat dried very hard, and afterward pounded in a large wooden mortar until it is made nearly as fine as saw-dust, then packed in this dry state in bladders or sacks of skin, and is easily carried to any part of the world in good order. 'Marrow fat' is collected by the Indians from the buffalo bones which they break to pieces, yielding a prodigious quantity of marrow, which is boiled out and put into buffalo bladders which have been distended ; and after it cools becomes quite hard like tallow, and has the appearance and very nearly the flavor of the richest yellow butter." — Catlin's *Manners and Customs of the North American Indians*, p. 191.

41. "In all tribes in these western regions it is an invariable rule that a chief never eats with his guests invited to the feast; but while they eat, he sits by at their service and ready to wait upon them; deliberately charging and lighting the pipe which is to be passed around after the feast is over." — Catlin, p. 190.

And when all the guests had finished,
 Old Nokomis, brisk and busy,
 From an ample pouch of otter,
 45 Filled the red stone pipes for smoking
 With tobacco from the South-land,
 Mixed with bark of the red willow,
 And with herbs and leaves of fragrance.

Then she said, "O Pau-Puk-Keewis,
 50 Dance for us your merry dances,
 Dance the Beggar's Dance to please us,
 That the feast may be more joyous,
 That the time may pass more gayly,
 And our guests be more contented!"

55 Then the handsome Pau-Puk-Keewis,
 He the idle Yenadizze,
 He the merry mischief-maker,
 Whom the people called the Storm-Fool,
 Rose among the guests assembled.

60 Skilled was he in sports and pastimes,
 In the merry dance of snow-shoes,
 In the play of quoits and ball-play ;
 Skilled was he in games of hazard,
 In all games of skill and hazard,

65 Pugasaing, the Bowl and Counters,
 Kuntassoo, the Game of Plum-stones.
 Though the warriors called him Faint-Heart,
 Called him coward, Shaugodaya,
 Idler, gambler, Yenadizze,

70 Little heeded he their jesting,
 Little cared he for their insults,

47. K'nick-k'nick, or bark of the red willow. — Catlin, p. 190.
 From this word comes the name of a favorite smoking tobacco,
 "Killi-kinic."

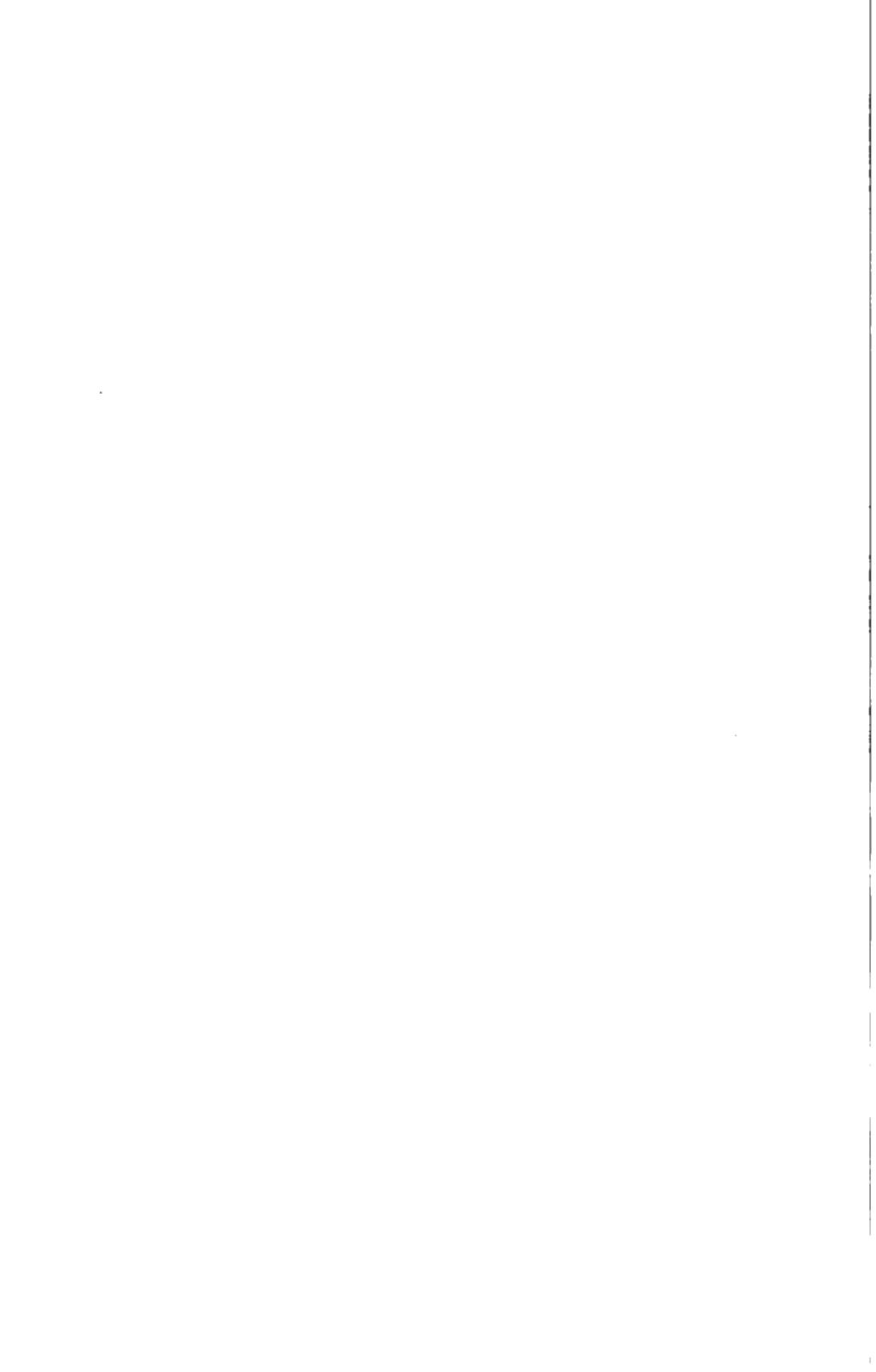
For the women and the maidens
Loved the handsome Pau-Puk-Keewis.

He was dressed in shirt of doe-skin,
75 White and soft, and fringed with ermine,
All inwrought with beads of wampum ;
He was dressed in deer-skin leggings,
Fringed with hedgehog quills and ermine,
And in moccasins of buck-skin,
80 Thick with quills and beads embroidered.
On his head were plumes of swan's down,
On his heels were tails of foxes,
In one hand a fan of feathers,
And a pipe was in the other.
85 Barred with streaks of red and yellow,
Streaks of blue and bright vermillion,
Shone the face of Pau-Puk-Keewis.
From his forehead fell his tresses,
Smooth, and parted like a woman's,
90 Shining bright with oil, and plaited,
Hung with braids of scented grasses,
As among the guests assembled,
To the sound of flutes and singing,
To the sound of drums and voices,
95 Rose the handsome Pau-Puk-Keewis,
And began his mystic dances.

First he danced a solemn measure,
Very slow in step and gesture,
In and out among the pine-trees,
100 Through the shadows and the sunshine,
Treading softly like a panther.
Then more swiftly and still swifter,
Whirling, spinning round in circles,
Leaping o'er the guests assembled,
105 Eddying round and round the wigwam,



“Treading softly like a panther”



Till the leaves went whirling with him,
Till the dust and wind together
Swept in eddies round about him.

Then along the sandy margin
110 Of the lake, the Big-Sea-Water,
On he sped with frenzied gestures,
Stamped upon the sand, and tossed it
Wildly in the air around him ;
Till the wind became a whirlwind,
115 Till the sand was blown and sifted
Like great snowdrifts o'er the landscape,
Heaping all the shores with Sand Dunes,
Sand Hills of the Nagow Wudjoo !

Thus the merry Pau-Puk-Keewis
120 Danced his Beggar's Dance to please them,
And, returning, sat down laughing
There among the guests assembled,
Sat and fanned himself serenely
With his fan of turkey-feathers.

125 Then they said to Chibiabos,
To the friend of Hiawatha,
To the sweetest of all singers,
To the best of all musicians,
“ Sing to us, O Chibiabos !

130 Songs of love and songs of longing,

118. “ The Grand Sable possesses a scenic interest little inferior to that of the Pictured Rocks. The explorer passes abruptly from a coast of consolidated sand to one of loose materials ; and although in the one case the cliffs are less precipitous, yet in the other they attain a higher altitude. He sees before him a long reach of coast, resembling a vast sand bank, more than three hundred and fifty feet in height, without a trace of vegetation. Ascending to the top, rounded hillocks of blown sand are observed, with occasional clumps of trees, standing out like oases in the desert.” — Foster and Whitney’s *Report on the Geology of the Lake Superior Land District*, Part II. p. 131.

That the feast may be more joyous,
 That the time may pass more gayly,
 And our guests be more contented ! ”

And the gentle Chibiabos

135 Sang in accents sweet and tender,
 Sang in tones of deep emotion,
 Songs of love and songs of longing ;
 Looking still at Hiawatha,
 Looking at fair Laughing Water,

140 Sang he softly, sang in this wise :

“ Onaway ! Awake, beloved !

Thou the wild-flower of the forest !

Thou the wild-bird of the prairie !

Thou with eyes so soft and fawn-like !

145 “ If thou only lookest at me,
 I am happy, I am happy,
 As the lilies of the prairie,
 When they feel the dew upon them !

“ Sweet thy breath is as the fragrance

150 Of the wild-flowers in the morning,
 As their fragrance is at evening,
 In the Moon when leaves are falling.

“ Does not all the blood within me
 Leap to meet thee, leap to meet thee,
 155 As the springs to meet the sunshine,
 In the Moon when nights are brightest ?

“ Onaway ! my heart sings to thee,
 Sings with joy when thou art near me,
 As the sighing, singing branches
 160 In the pleasant Moon of Strawberries !

“ When thou art not pleased, beloved,
 Then my heart is sad and darkened,

141. The original of this song may be found in *Littell's Living Age*, vol. xxv. p. 45.

As the shining river darkens
When the clouds drop shadows on it !

165 " When thou smilest, my beloved,
Then my troubled heart is brightened,
As in sunshine gleam the ripples
That the cold wind makes in rivers.

“ Smiles the earth, and smile the waters,
170 Smile the cloudless skies above us,
But I lose the way of smiling
When thou art no longer near me !

“ I myself, myself ! behold me !
Blood of my beating heart, behold me !

175 O awake, awake, beloved !
Onaway ! awake, beloved ! ”

Thus the gentle Chibiabos
Sang his song of love and longing ;
And Iagoo, the great boaster,

180 He the marvellous story-teller,
He the friend of old Nokomis,
Jealous of the sweet musician,
Jealous of the applause they gave him,
Saw in all the eyes around him,

185 Saw in all their looks and gestures,
That the wedding guests assembled
Longed to hear his pleasant stories,
His immeasurable falsehoods.

Very boastful was Iagoo ;

190 Never heard he an adventure
But himself had met a greater ;
Never any deed of daring
But himself had done a bolder ;
Never any marvellous story

195 But himself could tell a stranger.

179. Iagoo—an Indian Munchausen or Gulliver.

Would you listen to his boasting,
Would you only give him credence,
No one ever shot an arrow
Half so far and high as he had ;
200 Ever caught so many fishes,
Ever killed so many reindeer,
Ever trapped so many beaver !

None could run so fast as he could,
None could dive so deep as he could,
205 None could swim so far as he could ;
None had made so many journeys,
None had seen so many wonders,
As this wonderful Iagoo,
As this marvellous story-teller !

210 Thus his name became a by-word
And a jest among the people ;
And whene'er a boastful hunter
Praised his own address too highly,
Or a warrior, home returning,
215 Talked too much of his achievements,
All his hearers cried, " Iagoo !
Here 's Iagoo come among us ! "

He it was who carved the cradle
Of the little Hiawatha,
220 Carved its framework out of linden,
Bound it strong with reindeer sinews ;
He it was who taught him later
How to make his bows and arrows,
How to make the bows of ash-tree,
225 And the arrows of the oak-tree.
So among the guests assembled
At my Hiawatha's wedding
Sat Iagoo, old and ugly,
Sat the marvellous story-teller.

230 And they said, "O good Lagoo,
 Tell us now a tale of wonder,
 Tell us of some strange adventure,
 That the feast may be more joyous,
 That the time may pass more gayly,
 235 And our guests be more contented!"

And Lagoo answered straightway,
 "You shall hear a tale of wonder,
 You shall hear the strange adventures
 Of Osseo, the Magician,
 240 From the Evening Star descended."

XII.

THE SON OF THE EVENING STAR.

CAN it be the sun descending
 O'er the level plain of water?
 Or the Red Swan floating, flying,

3. From Schoolcraft's *Algic Researches*, vol. ii. p. 9. Three brothers were hunting on a wager to see who would bring in the first game.

"They were to shoot no other animal," so the legend says, "but such as each was in the habit of killing. They set out different ways: Odjibwa, the youngest, had not gone far before he saw a bear, an animal he was not to kill, by the agreement. He followed him close, and drove an arrow through him, which brought him to the ground. Although contrary to the bet, he immediately commenced skinning him, when suddenly something red tinged all the air around him. He rubbed his eyes, thinking perhaps he was deceived; but without effect, for the red hue continued. At length he heard a strange noise at a distance. It first appeared like a human voice, but after following the sound for some distance, he reached the shores of a lake, and soon saw the object he was looking for. At a distance out in the lake sat a most beautiful Red Swan, whose plumage glittered

Wounded by the magic arrow,
5 Staining all the waves with crimson,
With the crimson of its life-blood,
Filling all the air with splendor,
With the splendor of its plumage ?

Yes ; it is the sun descending,
10 Sinking down into the water ;
All the sky is stained with purple,
All the water flushed with crimson !
No ; it is the Red Swan floating,
Diving down beneath the water ;
15 To the sky its wings are lifted,
With its blood the waves are reddened !

Over it the Star of Evening

in the sun, and who would now and then make the same noise he had heard. He was within long bow-shot, and, pulling the arrow from the bowstring up to his ear, took deliberate aim and shot. The arrow took no effect; and he shot and shot again till his quiver was empty. Still the swan remained, moving round and round, stretching its long neck and dipping its bill into the water as if heedless of the arrows shot at it. Odjibwa ran home, and got all his own and his brothers' arrows, and shot them all away. He then stood and gazed at the beautiful bird. While standing, he remembered his brothers' saying that in their deceased father's medicine-sack were three magic arrows. Off he started, his anxiety to kill the swan overcoming all scruples. At any other time, he would have deemed it sacrilege to open his father's medicine-sack ; but now he hastily seized the three arrows and ran back, leaving the other contents of the sack scattered over the lodge. The swan was still there. He shot the first arrow with great precision, and came very near to it. The second came still closer; as he took the last arrow, he felt his arm firmer, and, drawing it up with vigor, saw it pass through the neck of the swan a little above the breast. Still it did not prevent the bird from flying off, which it did, however, at first slowly, flapping its wings and rising gradually into the air, and then flying off toward the sinking of the sun."

Melts and trembles through the purple,
Hangs suspended in the twilight.

20 No ; it is a bead of wampum
On the robes of the Great Spirit,
As he passes through the twilight,
Walks in silence through the heavens.

This with joy beheld Iagoo

25 And he said in haste : "Behold it !
See the sacred Star of Evening !
You shall hear a tale of wonder,
Hear the story of Osseo !
Son of the Evening Star, Osseo !

30 "Once, in days no more remembered,
Ages nearer the beginning,
When the heavens were closer to us,
And the Gods were more familiar,
In the North-land lived a hunter,
35 With ten young and comely daughters,
Tall and lithe as wands of willow ;
Only Oweenee, the youngest,
She the wilful and the wayward,
She the silent, dreamy maiden,
40 Was the fairest of the sisters.

"All these women married warriors,
Married brave and haughty husbands ;
Only Oweenee, the youngest,
Laughed and flouted all her lovers,

45 All her young and handsome suitors,
And then married old Osseo,
Old Osseo, poor and ugly,
Broken with age and weak with coughing,
Always coughing like a squirrel.

50 "Ah, but beautiful within him
Was the spirit of Osseo,

From the Evening Star descended,
 Star of Evening, Star of Woman,
 Star of tenderness and passion !

65 All its fire was in his bosom
 All its beauty in his spirit,
 All its mystery in his being,
 All its splendor in his language !
 “ And her lovers, the rejected,
 66 Handsome men with belts of wampum,
 Handsome men with paint and feathers,
 Pointed at her in derision,
 Followed her with jest and laughter.
 But she said : ‘ I care not for you,
 67 Care not for your belts of wampum,
 Care not for your paint and feathers,
 Care not for your jest and laughter ;
 I am happy with Osseo ! ’
 “ Once to some great feast invited,
 70 Through the damp and dusk of evening
 Walked together the ten sisters,
 Walked together with their husbands ;
 Slowly followed old Osseo,
 With fair Oweenee beside him ;
 75 All the others chatted gayly,
 These two only walked in silence.
 “ At the western sky Osseo
 Gazed intent, as if imploring,
 Often stopped and gazed imploring
 80 At the trembling Star of Evening,
 At the tender Star of Woman ;
 And they heard him murmur softly,
 ‘ Ah, *showain nemeshin, Nosa !*
 Pity, pity me, my father ! ’
 85 “ ‘ Listen ! ’ said the elder sister,

‘ He is praying to his father !
What a pity that the old man
Does not stumble in the pathway,
Does not break his neck by falling ! ’

99 And they laughed till all the forest
Rang with their unseemly laughter.

“ On their pathway through the woodlands
Lay an oak, by storms uprooted,
Lay the great trunk of an oak-tree,
95 Buried half in leaves and mosses,
Mouldering, crumbling, huge and hollow.
And Osseo, when he saw it,
Gave a shout, a cry of anguish,
Leaped into its yawning cavern,
100 At one end went in an old man,
Wasted, wrinkled, old, and ugly ;
From the other came a young man,
Tall and straight and strong and handsome.

“ Thus Osseo was transfigured,
105 Thus restored to youth and beauty ;
But, alas for good Osseo,
And for Oweenee, the faithful !
Strangely, too, was she transfigured.
Changed into a weak old woman,

110 With a staff she tottered onward,
Wasted, wrinkled, old, and ugly !
And the sisters and their husbands
Laughed until the echoing forest
Rang with their unseemly laughter.

115 “ But Osseo turned not from her,
Walked with slower step beside her,
Took her hand, as brown and withered
As an oak-leaf is in winter,
Called her sweetheart, Nenemoosha,

120 Soothed her with soft words of kindness,
Till they reached the lodge of feasting,
Till they sat down in the wigwam,
Sacred to the Star of Evening,
To the tender Star of Woman.

125 " Wrapt in visions, lost in dreaming,
At the banquet sat Osseo ;
All were merry, all were happy,
All were joyous but Osseo.
Neither food nor drink he tasted,

130 Neither did he speak nor listen,
But as one bewildered sat he,
Looking dreamily and sadly,
First at Oweenee, then upward
At the gleaming sky above them.

135 " Then a voice was heard, a whisper,
Coming from the starry distance,
Coming from the empty vastness,
Low, and musical, and tender ;
And the voice said : ' O Osseo !

140 O my son, my best beloved !
Broken are the spells that bound you,
All the charms of the magicians,
All the magic powers of evil ;
Come to me ; ascend, Osseo !

145 " " Taste the food that stands before you :
It is blessed and enchanted,
It has magic virtues in it,
It will change you to a spirit.
All your bowls and all your kettles
150 Shall be wood and clay no longer ;
But the bowls be changed to wampum,
And the kettles shall be silver ;
They shall shine like shells of scarlet,
Like the fire shall gleam and glimmer.

155 “ ‘ And the women shall no longer
Bear the dreary doom of labor,
But be changed to birds, and glisten
With the beauty of the starlight,
Painted with the dusky splendors
160 Of the skies and clouds of evening ! ’

“ What Osseo heard as whispers,
What as words he comprehended,
Was but music to the others,
Music as of birds afar off,
165 Of the whippoorwill afar off,
Of the lonely Wawonaissa
Singing in the darksome forest.

“ Then the lodge began to tremble.
Straight began to shake and tremble,
170 And they felt it rising, rising,
Slowly through the air ascending,
From the darkness of the tree-tops
Forth into the dewy starlight,
Till it passed the topmost branches ;

175 And behold ! the wooden dishes
All were changed to shells of scarlet !
And behold ! the earthen kettles
All were changed to bowls of silver !
And the roof-poles of the wigwam
180 Were as glittering rods of silver,
And the roof of bark upon them
As the shining shards of beetles.

“ Then Osseo gazed around him,
And he saw the nine fair sisters,
185 All the sisters and their husbands,
Changed to birds of various plumage.
Some were jays and some were magpies,
Others thrushes, others blackbirds ;

And they hopped, and sang, and twittered,
190 Perked and fluttered all their feathers,
Strutted in their shining plumage,
And their tails like fans unfolded.

“ Only Oweenee, the youngest,
Was not changed, but sat in silence,
196 Wasted, wrinkled, old, and ugly,
Looking sadly at the others ;
Till Osseo, gazing upward,
Gave another cry of anguish,
Such a cry as he had uttered
200 By the oak-tree in the forest.

“ Then returned her youth and beauty,
And her soiled and tattered garments
Were transformed to robes of ermine,
And her staff became a feather,
206 Yes, a shining silver feather !

“ And again the wigwam trembled,
Swayed and rushed through airy currents,
Through transparent cloud and vapor,
And amid celestial splendors
210 On the Evening Star alighted,
As a snow-flake falls on snow-flake,
As a leaf drops on a river,
As the thistle-down on water.

“ Forth with cheerful words of welcome
215 Came the father of Osseo,
He with radiant locks of silver,
He with eyes serene and tender.
And he said : ‘ My son, Osseo,
Hang the cage of birds you bring there,
220 Hang the cage with rods of silver,
And the birds with glistening feathers,
At the doorway of my wigwam.’

“ At the door he hung the bird-cage,
 And they entered in and gladly
 225 Listened to Osseo’s father,
 Ruler of the Star of Evening,
 As he said : ‘ O my Osseo !
 I have had compassion on you,
 Given you back your youth and beauty,
 230 Into birds of various plumage
 Changed your sisters and their husbands ;
 Changed them thus because they mocked you ;
 In the figure of the old man,
 In that aspect sad and wrinkled,
 235 Could not see your heart of passion,
 Could not see your youth immortal ;
 Only Oweenee, the faithful,
 Saw your naked heart and loved you.

“ ‘ In the lodge that glimmers yonder,
 240 In the little star that twinkles
 Through the vapors, on the left hand,
 Lives the envious Evil Spirit,
 The Wabeno, the magician,
 Who transformed you to an old man.

245 Take heed lest his beams fall on you,
 For the rays he darts around him
 Are the power of his enchantment,
 Are the arrows that he uses.’

“ Many years, in peace and quiet,
 250 On the peaceful Star of Evening
 Dwelt Osseo with his father ;
 Many years, in song and flutter,
 At the doorway of the wigwam,
 Hung the cage with rods of silver,
 255 And fair Oweenee, the faithful,
 Bore a son unto Osseo,

With the beauty of his mother,
With the courage of his father.

“ And the boy grew up and prospered,
260 And Osseo, to delight him,
Made him little bows and arrows,
Opened the great cage of silver,
And let loose his aunts and uncles,
All those birds with glossy feathers,
265 For his little son to shoot at.

“ Round and round they wheeled and darted,
Filled the Evening Star with music,
With their songs of joy and freedom ;
Filled the Evening Star with splendor,
270 With the fluttering of their plumage ;
Till the boy, the little hunter,
Bent his bow and shot an arrow,
Shot a swift and fatal arrow,
And a bird, with shining feathers,
275 At his feet fell wounded sorely.

“ But, O wondrous transformation !
'T was no bird he saw before him !
'T was a beautiful young woman,
With the arrow in her bosom !

280 “ When her blood fell on the planet,
On the sacred Star of Evening,
Broken was the spell of magic,
Powerless was the strange enchantment,
And the youth, the fearless bowman,
285 Suddenly felt himself descending,
Held by unseen hands, but sinking
Downward through the empty spaces,
Downward through the clouds and vapors,
Till he rested on an island,
290 On an island, green and grassy,
Yonder in the Big-Sea-Water.

“ After him he saw descending
All the birds with shining feathers,
Fluttering, falling, wafted downward,
Like the painted leaves of Autumn ;
And the lodge with poles of silver,
With its roof like wings of beetles,
Like the shining shards of beetles,
By the winds of heaven uplifted,
Slowly sank upon the island,
Bringing back the good Osseo,
Bringing Oweenee, the faithful.

“ Then the birds, again transfigured,
Reassumed the shape of mortals,
Took their shape, but not their stature ;
They remained as Little People,
Like the pygmies, the Puk-Wudjies,
And on pleasant nights of Summer,
When the Evening Star was shining,
Hand in hand they danced together
On the island’s craggy headlands,
On the sand-beach low and level.

“ Still their glittering lodge is seen there,
On the tranquil Summer evenings,
And upon the shore the fisher
Sometimes hears their happy voices,
Sees them dancing in the starlight ! ”

When the story was completed,
When the wondrous tale was ended,
Looking round upon his listeners,
Solemnly Iagoo added :
“ There are great men, I have known such,
Whom their people understand not,
Whom they even make a jest of,
Scoff and jeer at in derision.

From the story of Osseo

Let us learn the fate of jesters ! ”

All the wedding guests delighted
Listened to the marvellous story,

230 Listened laughing and applauding,
And they whispered to each other :
“ Does he mean himself, I wonder ?
And are we the aunts and uncles ? ”

Then again sang Chibiabos,
235 Sang a song of love and longing,
In those accents sweet and tender,
In those tones of pensive sadness,
Sang a maiden’s lamentation
For her lover, her Algonquin.

240 “ When I think of my beloved,
Ah me ! think of my beloved,
When my heart is thinking of him,
O my sweetheart, my Algonquin !

“ Ah me ! when I parted from him,
245 Round my neck he hung the wampum,
As a pledge, the snow-white wampum,
O my sweetheart, my Algonquin !

“ I will go with you, he whispered,
Ah me ! to your native country ;
250 Let me go with you, he whispered,
O my sweetheart, my Algonquin !

“ Far away, away, I answered,
Very far away, I answered,
Ah me ! is my native country,
255 O my sweetheart, my Algonquin !

“ When I looked back to behold him,
Where we parted, to behold him,
After me he still was gazing,
O my sweetheart, my Algonquin !

360 " By the tree he still was standing,
 By the fallen tree was standing,
 That had dropped into the water,
 O my sweetheart, my Algonquin !
 " When I think of my beloved,
 365 Ah me ! think of my beloved,
 When my heart is thinking of him,
 O my sweetheart, my Algonquin !"
 Such was Hiawatha's Wedding,
 Such the dance of Pau-Puk-Keewis,
 370 Such the story of Iagoo,
 Such the songs of Chibiabos ;
 Thus the wedding banquet ended,
 And the wedding guests departed,
 Leaving Hiawatha happy
 375 With the night and Minnehaha.

XIII.

BLESSING THE CORN-FIELDS.

SING, O Song of Hiawatha,
 Of the happy days that followed,
 In the land of the Ojibways,
 In the pleasant land and peaceful !
 Sing the mysteries of Mondamin,
 Sing the Blessing of the Corn-fields !

5. The Indians hold the maize or Indian corn in great veneration. According to Schoolcraft, their story-tellers invented various tales to prove its origin from the Great Spirit. The Ojibwa-Algonquins, who call it Mon-da-min, that is, the Spirit's grain or berry, have a pretty story of this kind, in which the stalk in full tassel is represented as descending from the sky, under the guise of a handsome youth, in answer to the prayers of a young man at his fast of virility, or coming to manhood.

Buried was the bloody hatchet,
Buried was the dreadful war-club,
Buried were all warlike weapons,
10 And the war-cry was forgotten.

There was peace among the nations ;
Unmolested roved the hunters,
Built the birch canoe for sailing,
Caught the fish in lake and river,
15 Shot the deer and trapped the beaver ;
Unmolested worked the women,
Made their sugar from the maple,
Gathered wild rice in the meadows,
Dressed the skins of deer and beaver.

20 All around the happy village
Stood the maize-fields, green and shining,
Waved the green plumes of Mondamin,
Waved his soft and sunny tresses,
Filling all the land with plenty.

25 'T was the women who in Spring-time
Planted the broad fields and fruitful,
Buried in the earth Mondamin ;
'T was the women who in Autumn

It is well known that corn-planting and corn-gathering, at least among the still *uncolonized* tribes, are left entirely to the females and children, and a few superannuated old men. It is not generally known, perhaps, that this labor is not compulsory, and that it is assumed by the females as a just equivalent, in their view, for the onerous and continuous labor of the other sex in providing meats, and skins for clothing, by the chase, and in defending their villages against their enemies and keeping intruders off their territories. A good Indian housewife deems this a part of her prerogative, and prides herself to have a store of corn to exercise her hospitality, or duly honor her husband's hospitality, in the entertainment of the lodge guests. — *Oneota*, p. 82.



“ ’T was the women who in autumn ”

Stripped the yellow husks of harvest,
30 Stripped the garments from Mondamin,
Even as Hiawatha taught them.

Once, when all the maize was planted,
Hiawatha, wise and thoughtful,
Spake and said to Minnehaha,
35 To his wife, the Laughing Water :
“ You shall bless to-night the corn-fields,
Draw a magic circle round them,
To protect them from destruction,
Blast of mildew, blight of insect,
40 Wagemin, the thief of corn-fields,
Paimosaid, who steals the maize-ear !

“ In the night, when all is silence,
In the night, when all is darkness,
When the Spirit of Sleep, Nepahwin,
45 Shuts the doors of all the wigwams,
So that not an ear can hear you,
So that not an eye can see you,
Rise up from your bed in silence,
Lay aside your garments wholly,
50 Walk around the fields you planted,
Round the borders of the corn-fields,
Covered by your tresses only,
Robed with darkness as a garment.

53. A singular proof of this belief, in both sexes, of the mysterious influence of the steps of a woman on the vegetable and insect creation, is found in an ancient custom which was related to me concerning corn-planting. It was the practice of the hunter's wife, when the field of corn had been planted, to choose the first dark or over-clouded evening to perform a secret circuit, *sans habillement*, around the field. For this purpose, she slipped out of the lodge in the evening, unobserved, to some obscure nook, where she completely disrobed. Then taking her *matchecota*, or principal garment, in one hand, she dragged it

“ Thus the fields shall be more fruitful,
 55 And the passing of your footsteps
 Draw a magic circle round them,
 So that neither blight nor mildew,
 Neither burrowing worm nor insect,
 Shall pass o'er the magic circle ;
 60 Not the dragon-fly, Kwo-ne-she,
 Nor the spider, Subbekashe,
 Nor the grasshopper, Pah-puk-keena,
 Nor the mighty caterpillar,
 Way-muk-kwana, with the bear-skin,
 65 King of all the caterpillars ! ”

On the tree-tops near the corn-fields
 Sat the hungry crows and ravens,
 Kahgahgee, the King of Ravens,
 With his band of black marauders,
 70 And they laughed at Hiawatha,
 Till the tree-tops shook with laughter,
 With their melancholy laughter
 At the words of Hiawatha.

“ Hear him ! ” said they ; “ hear the Wise Man,
 75 Hear the plots of Hiawatha ! ”

When the noiseless night descended
 Broad and dark o'er field and forest,
 When the mournful Wawonaissa
 Sorrowing sang among the hemlocks,
 80 And the Spirit of Sleep, Nepahwin,
 Shut the doors of all the wigwams,
 From her bed rose Laughing Water,
 Laid aside her garments wholly,

around the field. This was thought to insure a prolific crop, and to prevent the assaults of insects and worms upon the grain. It was supposed they could not creep over the charmed line. — *Oneota*, p. 83.

And with darkness clothed and guarded,
85 Unashamed and unaffrighted,
Walked securely round the corn-fields,
Drew the sacred, magic circle
Of her footprints round the corn-fields.

No one but the Midnight only
90 Saw her beauty in the darkness,
No one but the Wawonaissa
Heard the panting of her bosom ;
Guskewau, the darkness, wrapped her
Closely in his sacred mantle,
95 So that none might see her beauty,
So that none might boast, "I saw her ! "

On the morrow, as the day dawned,
Kahgahgee, the King of Ravens,
Gathered all his black marauders,
100 Crows and blackbirds, jays and ravens,
Clamorous on the dusky tree-tops,
And descended, fast and fearless,
On the fields of Hiawatha,
On the grave of the Mondamin.

105 "We will drag Mondamin," said they,
"From the grave where he is buried,
Spite of all the magic circles
Laughing Water draws around it,
Spite of all the sacred footprints
110 Minnehaha stamps upon it ! "

But the wary Hiawatha,
Ever thoughtful, careful, watchful,
Had o'erheard the scornful laughter
When they mocked him from the tree-tops.
115 "Kaw !" he said, "my friends the ravens !
Kahgahgee, my King of Ravens !

I will teach you all a lesson
That shall not be soon forgotten!"

He had risen before the daybreak,
120 He had spread o'er all the corn-fields
Snares to catch the black marauders,
And was lying now in ambush
In the neighboring grove of pine-trees,
Waiting for the crows and blackbirds,
125 Waiting for the jays and ravens.

Soon they came with caw and clamor,
Rush of wings and cry of voices,
To their work of devastation,
Settling down upon the corn-fields,
130 Delving deep with beak and talon,
For the body of Mondamin.
And with all their craft and cunning,
All their skill in wiles of warfare,
They perceived no danger near them,
135 Till their claws became entangled,
Till they found themselves imprisoned
In the snares of Hiawatha.

From his place of ambush came he,
Striding terrible among them,
140 And so awful was his aspect
That the bravest quailed with terror.
Without mercy he destroyed them
Right and left, by tens and twenties,
And their wretched, lifeless bodies
145 Hung aloft on poles for scarecrows
Round the consecrated corn-fields,
As a signal of his vengeance,
As a warning to marauders.

Only Kahgahgee, the leader,
150 Kahgahgee, the King of Ravens,

He alone was spared among them
As a hostage for his people.
With his prisoner-string he bound him,
Led him captive to his wigwam,
155 Tied him fast with cords of elm-bark
To the ridge-pole of his wigwam.
“ Kahgahgee, my raven ! ” said he,
“ You the leader of the robbers,
You the plotter of this mischief,
160 The contriver of this outrage,
I will keep you, I will hold you,
As a hostage for your people,
As a pledge of good behavior ! ”
And he left him, grim and sulky,
165 Sitting in the morning sunshine
On the summit of the wigwam,
Croaking fiercely his displeasure,
Flapping his great sable pinions,
Vainly struggling for his freedom,
170 Vainly calling on his people !
Summer passed, and Shawondasee
Breathed his sighs o’er all the landscape,
From the South-land sent his ardors,
Wafted kisses warm and tender ;
175 And the maize-field grew and ripened,
Till it stood in all the splendor
Of its garments green and yellow,
Of its tassels and its plumage,

153. “These cords,” says Mr. Tanner, “are made of the bark of the elm-tree, by boiling and then immersing it in cold water. . . . The leader of a war party commonly carries several fastened about his waist, and if, in the course of the fight, any one of his young men takes a prisoner, it is his duty to bring him immediately to the chief to be tied, and the latter is responsible for his safe-keeping.” — *Narrative of Captivity and Adventures*, p. 412.

And the maize-ears full and shining
120 Gleamed from bursting sheaths of verdure.

Then Nokomis, the old woman,
Spake, and said to Minnehaha :
“ ’T is the Moon when leaves are falling ;
All the wild-rice has been gathered,
125 And the maize is ripe and ready ;
Let us gather in the harvest,
Let us wrestle with Mondamin,
Strip him of his plumes and tassels,
Of his garments green and yellow ! ”

130 And the merry Laughing Water
Went rejoicing from the wigwam,
With Nokomis, old and wrinkled,
And they called the women round them,
Called the young men and the maidens,
135 To the harvest of the corn-fields,
To the husking of the maize-ear.

On the border of the forest,
Underneath the fragrant pine-trees,
Sat the old men and the warriors
200 Smoking in the pleasant shadow.
In uninterrupted silence
Looked they at the gamesome labor
Of the young men and the women ;
Listened to their noisy talking,
205 To their laughter and their singing,
Heard them chattering like the magpies,
Heard them laughing like the blue-jays,
Heard them singing like the robins.

And whene’er some lucky maiden
210 Found a red ear in the husking,
Found a maize-ear red as blood is,
“ Nushka ! ” cried they all together,

“ Nushka! you shall have a sweetheart,
You shall have a handsome husband ! ”

215 “ Ugh ! ” the old men all responded,
From their seats beneath the pine-trees.

And whene’er a youth or maiden
Found a crooked ear in husking,
Found a maize-ear in the husking

220 Blighted, mildewed, or misshapen,
Then they laughed and sang together,
Crept and limped about the corn-fields,
Mimicked in their gait and gestures
Some old man, bent almost double,

225 Singing singly or together :
“ Wagemin, the thief of corn-fields !
Paimosaid, who steals the maize-ear ! ”
Till the corn-fields rang with laughter,
Till from Hiawatha’s wigwam

230 Kahgahgee, the King of Ravens,
Screamed and quivered in his anger,
And from all the neighboring tree-tops
Cawed and croaked the black marauders.

“ Ugh ! ” the old men all responded,
235 From their seats beneath the pine-trees !

217. The poet seems to give a sidelong glance at the New England husking frolic, and the fun incident to the finding of a red ear.

“ The literal meaning of Wagemin is a mass or crooked ear of grain ; but the ear of corn, so called, is a conventional type of a little old man pilfering ears of corn in a corn-field. This term is taken as the basis of the cereal chorus, or corn song, as sung by the Northern Algonquin tribes. It is coupled with the phrase Paimosaid, a permutative form of the Indian substantive, made from the verb Pimosa, to walk. Its literal meaning is, *he who walks, or the walker*; but the ideas conveyed by it are, he who walks by night to pilfer corn. It offers, therefore, a kind of parallelism in expression to the preceding term.” — *Oneóta*, p. 254.

XIV.

PICTURE-WRITING.

IN those days said Hiawatha,
“ Lo ! how all things fade and perish !
From the memory of the old men
Pass away the great traditions,
5 The achievements of the warriors,
The adventures of the hunters,
All the wisdom of the Medas,
All the craft of the Wabenos,
All the marvellous dreams and visions
10 Of the Jossakeeds, the Prophets !

“ Great men die and are forgotten,
Wise men speak ; their words of wisdom
Perish in the ears that hear them,
Do not reach the generations
15 That, as yet unborn, are waiting
In the great, mysterious darkness
Of the speechless days that shall be !

“ On the grave-posts of our fathers
Are no signs, no figures painted ;
20 Who are in those graves we know not,
Only know they are our fathers.
Of what kith they are and kindred,
From what old, ancestral Totem,
Be it Eagle, Bear or Beaver,
25 They descended, this we know not,
Only know they are our fathers.

“ Face to face we speak together,
But we cannot speak when absent,
Cannot send our voices from us

» To the friends that dwell afar off ;
 Cannot send a secret message,
 But the bearer learns our secret,
 May pervert it, may betray it,
 May reveal it unto others.”

» Thus said Hiawatha, walking
 In the solitary forest,
 Pondering, musing in the forest,
 On the welfare of his people.

From his pouch he took his colors,

» Took his paints of different colors,
 On the smooth bark of a birch-tree
 Painted many shapes and figures,
 Wonderful and mystic figures,
 And each figure had a meaning,

» Each some word or thought suggested.

Gitche Manitou the Mighty,

He, the Master of Life, was painted
 As an egg, with points projecting
 To the four winds of the heavens.

» Everywhere is the Great Spirit,
 Was the meaning of this symbol.

Mitche Manitou the Mighty,

He the dreadful Spirit of Evil,
 As a serpent was depicted,

» As Kenabeek, the great serpent.
 Very crafty, very cunning,
 Is the creeping Spirit of Evil,
 Was the meaning of this symbol.

Life and Death he drew as circles,

» Life was white, but Death was darkened ;
 Sun and moon and stars he painted,
 Man and beast, and fish and reptile,
 Forests, mountains, lakes, and rivers.

For the earth he drew a straight line,
For the sky a bow above it ;
White the space between for day-time,
Filled with little stars for night-time ;
On the left a point for sunrise,
On the right a point for sunset,
On the top a point for noontide,
And for rain and cloudy weather
Waving lines descending from it.

Footprints pointing towards a wigwam
Were a sign of invitation,
Were a sign of guests assembling ;
Bloody hands with palms uplifted
Were a symbol of destruction,
Were a hostile sign and symbol.

All these things did Hiawatha
Show unto his wondering people,
And interpreted their meaning,
And he said : " Behold, your grave-posts
Have no mark, no sign, nor symbol.
Go and paint them all with figures ;
Each one with its household symbol,
With its own ancestral Totem ;
So that those who follow after
May distinguish them and know them."

And they painted on the grave-posts
On the graves yet unforgotten,
Each his own ancestral Totem,
Each the symbol of his household ;
Figures of the Bear and Reindeer,
Of the Turtle, Crane, and Beaver,
Each inverted as a token
That the owner was departed,
That the chief who bore the symbol
Lay beneath in dust and ashes.



“Such as these the shapes they painted”



And the Jossakeeds, the Prophets,
 100 The Wabenos, the Magicians,
 And the Medicine-men, the Medas,
 Painted upon bark and deer-skin
 Figures for the songs they chanted,
 For each song a separate symbol,
 105 Figures mystical and awful,
 Figures strange and brightly colored ;
 And each figure had its meaning,
 Each some magic song suggested.

The Great Spirit, the Creator,
 110 Flashing light through all the heaven ;
 The Great Serpent, the Kenabeek,
 With his bloody crest erected,
 Creeping, looking into heaven ;
 In the sky the sun, that glistens,
 115 And the moon eclipsed and dying ;
 Owl and eagle, crane and hen-hawk,
 And the cormorant, bird of magic ;
 Headless men, that walk the heavens,
 Bodies lying pierced with arrows,
 120 Bloody hands of death uplifted,
 Flags on graves, and great war-captains
 Grasping both the earth and heaven !

Such as these the shapes they painted

123. "The number of such arbitrary characters in the Chipeway notation is said to be over two hundred, but if the distinction between a figure and a symbol were rigidly applied, it would be much reduced. This kind of writing, if it deserves the name, was common throughout the continent, and many specimens of it, scratched on the plane surfaces of stones, have been preserved to the present day. Such is the once celebrated inscription on Dighton Rock, Massachusetts, long supposed to be a record of the Northmen of Vinland." — Brinton's *Myths of the New World*, p. 9.

On the birch-bark and the deer-skin ;

126 Songs of war and songs of hunting,

Songs of medicine and of magic,

All were written in these figures,

For each figure had its meaning,

Each its separate song recorded.

130 Nor forgotten was the Love-Song,

The most subtle of all medicines,

The most potent spell of magic,

Dangerous more than war or hunting !

Thus the Love-Song was recorded,

135 Symbol and interpretation.

First a human figure standing,

Painted in the brightest scarlet ;

'T is the lover, the musician,

And the meaning is, " My painting

140 Makes me powerful over others."

Then the figure seated, singing,

Playing on a drum of magic,

And the interpretation, " Listen !

'T is my voice you hear, my singing ! "

145 Then the same red figure seated

In the shelter of a wigwam,

And the meaning of the symbol,

" I will come and sit beside you

In the mystery of my passion ! "

150 Then two figures, man and woman,

Standing hand in hand together

With their hands so clasped together

That they seem in one united,

And the words thus represented

155 Are, " I see your heart within you,

And your cheeks are red with blushes ! "

Next the maiden on an island,

In the centre of an island ;
And the song this shape suggested
160 Was, “ Though you were at a distance,
Were upon some far-off island,
Such the spell I cast upon you,
Such the magic power of passion,
I could straightway draw you to me ! ”

165 Then the figure of the maiden
Sleeping, and the lover near her,
Whispering to her in her slumbers,
Saying, “ Though you were far from me
In the land of Sleep and Silence,

170 Still the voice of love would reach you ! ”

And the last of all the figures
Was a heart within a circle,
Drawn within a magic circle ;
And the image had this meaning :
175 “ Naked lies your heart before me,
To your naked heart I whisper ! ”

Thus it was that Hiawatha,
In his wisdom, taught the people
All the mysteries of painting,
180 All the art of Picture-Writing,
On the smooth bark of the birch-tree,
On the white skin of the reindeer,
On the grave-posts of the village.

XV.

HIAWATHA'S LAMENTATION.

IN those days the Evil Spirits,
All the Manitos of mischief,
Fearing Hiawatha's wisdom,

And his love for Chibiabos,
 5 Jealous of their faithful friendship,
 And their noble words and actions,
 Made at length a league against them,
 To molest them and destroy them.

Hiawatha, wise and wary,
 10 Often said to Chibiabos,
 "O my brother! do not leave me,
 Lest the Evil Spirits harm you!"
 Chibiabos, young and heedless,
 Laughing shook his coal-black tresses,
 15 Answered ever sweet and childlike,
 "Do not fear for me, O brother!
 Harm and evil come not near me!"

Once when Peboan, the Winter,
 Roofed with ice the Big-Sea-Water,
 20 When the snow-flakes, whirling downward,
 Hissed among the withered oak-leaves,
 Changed the pine-trees into wigwams,
 Covered all the earth with silence,—
 Armed with arrows, shod with snow-shoes,
 25 Heeding not his brother's warning,
 Fearing not the Evil Spirits,
 Forth to hunt the deer with antlers
 All alone went Chibiabos.

Right across the Big-Sea-Water
 30 Sprang with speed the deer before him.
 With the wind and snow he followed,
 O'er the treacherous ice he followed,
 Wild with all the fierce commotion
 And the rapture of the hunting.
 35 But beneath, the Evil Spirits
 Lay in ambush, waiting for him,
 Broke the treacherous ice beneath him,

Dragged him downward to the bottom,
Buried in the sand his body.

40 Unktahee, the god of water,
He the god of the Dacotahs,
Drowned him in the deep abysses
Of the lake of Gitche Gumee.

From the headlands Hiawatha
45 Sent forth such a wail of anguish,
Such a fearful lamentation,
That the bison paused to listen,
And the wolves howled from the prairies,
And the thunder in the distance
50 Starting answered " Baim-wawa ! "

Then his face with black he painted,
With his robe his head he covered,
In his wigwam sat lamenting,
Seven long weeks he sat lamenting,
55 Uttering still this moan of sorrow : —

" He is dead, the sweet musician !
He the sweetest of all singers !
He has gone from us forever,
He has moved a little nearer
60 To the Master of all music,
To the Master of all singing !
O my brother, Chibiabos ! "

And the melancholy fir-trees
Waved their dark green fans above him,
65 Waved their purple cones above him,
Sighing with him to console him,
Mingling with his lamentation
Their complaining, their lamenting.

Came the Spring, and all the forest
70 Looked in vain for Chibiabos ;

Sighed the rivulet, Sebowisha,
Sighed the rushes in the meadow.

From the tree-tops sang the bluebird,
Sang the bluebird, the Owaissa,
"Chibiabos ! Chibiabos !
He is dead, the sweet musician !"

From the wigwam sang the robin,
Sang the robin, the Opechee,
"Chibiabos ! Chibiabos !

"He is dead, the sweetest singer !"
And at night through all the forest
Went the whippoorwill complaining,
Wailing went the Wawonaissa,
"Chibiabos ! Chibiabos !

"He is dead, the sweet musician !
He the sweetest of all singers !"

Then the medicine-men, the Medas,
The magicians, the Wabenos,
And the Jossakeeds, the prophets,
Came to visit Hiawatha ;
Built a Sacred Lodge beside him,
To appease him, to console him,
Walked in silent, grave procession,
Bearing each a pouch of healing,
Skin of beaver, lynx, or otter,
Filled with magic roots and simples,
Filled with very potent medicines.

When he heard their steps approaching,

97. Medicine with the Indian is mystery, and his regard for his medicine bag is one of the most curious features among his customs. "The manner in which this curious and important article is instituted is this ; a boy, at the age of fourteen or fifteen years, is said to be making or 'forming his medicine,' when he wanders away from his father's lodge and absents himself for the space of two or three and sometimes even four or

Hiawatha ceased lamenting,
100 Called no more on Chibiabos ;
Naught he questioned, naught he answered
But his mournful head uncovered,
From his face the mourning colors
Washed he slowly and in silence,
105 Slowly and in silence followed
Onward to the Sacred Wigwam.

There a magic drink they gave him,
Made of Nahma-wusk, the spearmint,
And Wabeno-wusk, the yarrow,
110 Roots of power, and herbs of healing ;
Beat their drums, and shook their rattles ;
Chanted singly and in chorus,
Mystic songs, like these, they chanted.

“ I myself, myself ! behold me !
115 'T is the great Gray Eagle talking ;
Come, ye white crows, come and hear him !
The loud-speaking thunder helps me ;
All the unseen spirits help me ;
I can hear their voices calling,
120 All around the sky I hear them !

five days; lying on the ground in some remote or secluded spot, crying to the Great Spirit, and fasting the whole time. During this period of peril and abstinence, when he falls asleep, the first animal, bird or reptile of which he dreams (or pretends to have dreamed, perhaps) he considers the Great Spirit has designated for his mysterious protector through life. He then returns home to his father's lodge, and relates his success ; and after allaying his thirst and satiating his appetite, he sallies forth with weapons or traps, until he can procure the animal or bird, the skin of which he preserves entire and ornaments it according to his own fancy, and carries it with him through life, for 'good luck' (as he calls it); as his strength in battle, and in death his guardian Spirit, that is buried with him, and which is to conduct him safe to the beautiful hunting-grounds, which he contemplates in the world to come.” — Catlin, p. 71.

I can blow you strong, my brother,
I can heal you, Hiawatha ! ”

“ Hi-au-ha ! ” replied the chorus,
“ Way-ha-way ! ” the mystic chorus.

125 “ Friends of mine are all the serpents !
Hear me shake my skin of hen-hawk !
Mahng, the white loon, I can kill him ;
I can shoot your heart and kill it !
I can blow you strong, my brother,
130 I can heal you, Hiawatha ! ”

“ Hi-au-ha ! ” replied the chorus,
“ Way-ha-way ! ” the mystic chorus.

“ I myself, myself ! the prophet !
When I speak the wigwam trembles,
135 Shakes the Sacred Lodge with terror,
Hands unseen begin to shake it !
When I walk, the sky I tread on
Bends and makes a noise beneath me !
I can blow you strong, my brother !
140 Rise and speak, O Hiawatha ! ”

“ Hi-au-ha ! ” replied the chorus,
“ Way-ha-way ! ” the mystic chorus.

Then they shook their medicine-pouches
O'er the head of Hiawatha,
145 Danced their medicine-dance around him ;
And upstarting wild and haggard,
Like a man from dreams awakened,
He was healed of all his madness.
As the clouds are swept from heaven,
150 Straightway from his brain departed
All his moody melancholy ;
As the ice is swept from rivers,
Straightway from his heart departed
All his sorrow and affliction.

156 Then they summoned Chibiabos
From his grave beneath the waters,
From the sands of Gitche Gumee
Summoned Hiawatha's brother.

160 And so mighty was the magic
Of that cry and invocation,

164 That he heard it as he lay there
Underneath the Big-Sea-Water;
From the sand he rose and listened,
Heard the music and the singing,
168 Came, obedient to the summons,
To the doorway of the wigwam,
But to enter they forbade him.

172 Through a chink a coal they gave him,
Through the door a burning fire-brand;

176 Ruler in the Land of Spirits,
Ruler o'er the dead, they made him,
Telling him a fire to kindle
For all those that died thereafter,
Camp-fires for their night encampments

178 On their solitary journey
To the kingdom of Ponemah,
To the land of the Hereafter.

182 From the village of his childhood,
From the homes of those who knew him,
186 Passing silent through the forest,
Like a smoke-wreath wafted sideways,
Slowly vanished Chibiabos!

190 Where he passed, the branches moved not,
Where he trod, the grasses bent not,
194 And the fallen leaves of last year
Made no sound beneath his footsteps.

Four whole days he journeyed onward
Down the pathway of the dead men;

On the dead man's strawberry feasted,
 180 Crossed the melancholy river,
 On the swinging log he crossed it,—
 Came unto the Lake of Silver,
 In the Stone Canoe was carried
 To the Islands of the Blessed,
 185 To the land of ghosts and shadows.

On that journey, moving slowly,
 Many weary spirits saw he,
 Panting under heavy burdens,
 Laden with war-clubs, bows and arrows,
 190 Robes of fur, and pots and kettles,
 And with food that friends had given
 For that solitary journey.

“Ay! why do the living,” said they,
 “Lay such heavy burdens on us!
 195 Better were it to go naked,
 Better were it to go fasting,
 Than to bear such heavy burdens
 On our long and weary journey!”

Forth then issued Hiawatha,
 200 Wandered eastward, wandered westward,
 Teaching men the use of simples
 And the antidotes for poisons,
 And the cure of all diseases.
 Thus was first made known to mortals
 205 All the mystery of Medamin,
 All the sacred art of healing.

191. “Our people all believe that the spirit lives in a future state—that it has a great distance to travel after death towards the West—that it has to cross a dreadful deep and rapid stream, which is hemmed in on both sides by high and rugged hills—over this stream, from hill to hill, there lies a long and slippery pine log, with the bark peeled off, over which the dead have to pass to the happy hunting-grounds.”—Catlin, p. 588.

XVI.

PAU-PUK-KEEWIS.

YOU shall hear how Pau-Puk-Keewis
He, the handsome Yenadizze,
Whom the people called the Storm Fool,
Vexed the village with disturbance;

5 You shall hear of all his mischief,
And his flight from Hiawatha,
And his wondrous transmigrations,
And the end of his adventures.

On the shores of Gitche Gumee,
10 On the dunes of Nagow Wudjoo,
By the shining Big-Sea-Water
Stood the lodge of Pau-Puk-Keewis.
It was he who in his frenzy
Whirled these drifting sands together,

15 On the dunes of Nagow Wudjoo,
When, among the guests assembled,
He so merrily and madly
Danced at Hiawatha's wedding,
Danced the Beggar's Dance to please them.

20 Now, in search of new adventures,
From his lodge went Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Came with speed into the village,
Found the young men all assembled
In the lodge of old Iagoo,
25 Listening to his monstrous stories,
To his wonderful adventures.

2. "The Indian idea is that of a harum scarum. He is regarded as a foil to Manabozho, with whom he is frequently brought into contact in aboriginal story craft." — Schoolcraft, *Algic Researches*, vol. i. p. 201.

He was telling them the story
Of Ojeeg, the Summer-Maker,
How he made a hole in heaven,
• How he climbed up into heaven,
And let out the summer-weather,
The perpetual, pleasant Summer ;
How the Otter first essayed it ;
How the Beaver, Lynx, and Badger
• Tried in turn the great achievement,
From the summit of the mountain
Smote their fists against the heavens,
Smote against the sky their foreheads,
Cracked the sky, but could not break it ;
• How the Wolverine, uprising,
Made him ready for the encounter,
Bent his knees down, like a squirrel,
Drew his arms back, like a cricket.

“Once he leaped,” said old Iagoo,
“Once he leaped, and lo ! above him
Bent the sky, as ice in rivers
When the waters rise beneath it ;
Twice he leaped, and lo ! above him
Cracked the sky, as ice in rivers
• When the freshet is at highest !
Thrice he leaped, and lo ! above him
Broke the shattered sky asunder,
And he disappeared within it,
And Ojeeg, the Fisher Weasel,
• With a bound went in behind him ! ”
“Hark you ! ” shouted Pau-Puk-Keewis
As he entered at the doorway ;
“I am tired of all this talking,
Tired of old Iagoo’s stories,
• Tired of Hiawatha’s wisdom.

Here is something to amuse you,
Better than this endless talking."

Then from out his pouch of wolf-skin
Forth he drew, with solemn manner,
65 All the game of Bowl and Counters,
Pugasaing, with thirteen pieces.
White on one side were they painted,
And vermillion on the other ;
Two Kenabeeks or great serpents,
70 Two Ininewug or wedge-men,
One great war-club, Pugamaugun,
And one slender fish, the Keego,
Four round pieces, Ozawabeeks,
And three Sheshebwug or ducklings.
75 All were made of bone and painted,
All except the Ozawabeeks ;
These were brass, on one side burnished,
And were black upon the other.
In a wooden bowl he placed them,
80 Shook and jostled them together,
Threw them on the ground before him,
Thus exclaiming and explaining :
" Red side up are all the pieces,
And one great Kenabeek standing

66. This game of Bowl is the principal game of hazard among the Northern tribes of Indians. Mr. Schoolcraft says, " This game is very fascinating to some Indians. They stake at it all their possessions, and have been known, it is said, to set up their wives and children, and even to forfeit their own liberty." Mr. Schoolcraft says, however, that he has known no such desperate playing, and claims that the playing is confined to certain persons who hold the relative rank of gamblers in Indian society. " Among them are persons who bear the term of Jena-dizzewug, that is, wanderers about the country, braggadocios or fops."

88 On the bright side of a brass piece,
On a burnished Ozawabeek ;
Thirteen tens and eight are counted.”
Then again he shook the pieces,
Shook and jostled them together,

90 Threw them on the ground before him,
Still exclaiming and explaining :
“ White are both the great Kenabeeks,
White the Ininewug, the wedge-men,
Red are all the other pieces ;

95 Five tens and an eight are counted.”
Thus he taught the game of hazard,
Thus displayed it and explained it,
Running through its various chances,
Various changes, various meanings :
100 Twenty curious eyes stared at him,
Full of eagerness stared at him.
“ Many games,” said old Iagoo,
“ Many games of skill and hazard
Have I seen in different nations,
105 Have I played in different countries.
He who plays with old Iagoo
Must have very nimble fingers ;
Though you think yourself so skilful
I can beat you, Pau-Puk-Keewis,
110 I can even give you lessons
In your game of Bowl and Counters ! ”
So they sat and played together,
All the old men and the young men,
Played for dresses, weapons, wampum,
115 Played till midnight, played till morning,
Played until the Yenadizze,
Till the cunning Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Of their treasures had despoiled them,

Of the best of all their dresses,
 120 Shirts of deer-skin, robes of ermine,
 Belts of wampum, crests of feathers,
 Warlike weapons, pipes and pouches.
 Twenty eyes glared wildly at him,
 Like the eyes of wolves glared at him.

125 Said the lucky Pau-Puk-Keewis :
 “ In my wigwam I am lonely,
 In my wanderings and adventures
 I have need of a companion,
 Fain would have a Meshinawwa,

130 An attendant and pipe-bearer.
 I will venture all these winnings,
 All these garments heaped about me,
 All this wampum, all these feathers,
 On a single throw will venture

135 All against the young man yonder ! ”
 ‘T was a youth of sixteen summers,
 ‘T was a nephew of Iagoo ;
 Face-in-a-Mist, the people called him.
 As the fire burns in a pipe-head

140 Dusky red beneath the ashes,
 So beneath his shaggy eyebrows
 Glowed the eyes of old Iagoo.
 “ Ugh ! ” he answered very fiercely ;
 “ Ugh ! ” they answered all and each one.

145 Seized the wooden bowl the old man,
 Closely in his bony fingers
 Clutched the fatal bowl, Onagon,
 Shook it fiercely and with fury,
 Made the pieces ring together

150 As he threw them down before him.
 Red were both the great Kenabeeks,
 Red the Ininewug, the wedge-men,

Red the Sheshebwug, the ducklings,
Black the four brass Ozawabeeks,
155 White alone the fish, the Keego ;
Only five the pieces counted !

Then the smiling Pau-Puk-Keewis
Shook the bowl and threw the pieces ;
Lightly in the air he tossed them,
160 And they fell about him scattered ;
Dark and bright the Ozawabeeks,
Red and white the other pieces,
And upright among the others
One Ininewug was standing,
165 Even as crafty Pau-Puk-Keewis
Stood alone among the players,
Saying, " Five tens ! mine the game is ! "

Twenty eyes glared at him fiercely,
Like the eyes of wolves glared at him,
170 As he turned and left the wigwam,
Followed by his Meshinauwa,
By the nephew of Iagoo,
By the tall and graceful stripling,
Bearing in his arms the winnings,
175 Shirts of deer-skin, robes of ermine,
Belts of wampum, pipes and weapons.

" Carry them," said Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Pointing with his fan of feathers,
" To my wigwam far to eastward,
180 On the dunes of Nagow Wudjoo ! "

Hot and red with smoke and gambling
Were the eyes of Pau-Puk-Keewis
As he came forth to the freshness
Of the pleasant Summer morning.
185 All the birds were singing gayly,
All the streamlets flowing swiftly,

And the heart of Pau-Puk-Keewis
Sang with pleasure as the birds sing,
Beat with triumph like the streamlets,
130 As he wandered through the village,
In the early gray of morning,
With his fan of turkey-feathers,
With his plumes and tufts of swan's down,
Till he reached the farthest wigwam,
135 Reached the lodge of Hiawatha.
 Silent was it and deserted ;
No one met him at the doorway,
No one came to bid him welcome ;
But the birds were singing round it,
140 In and out and round the doorway,
Hopping, singing, fluttering, feeding,
And aloft upon the ridge-pole
Kahgahgee, the King of Ravens,
Sat with fiery eyes, and, screaming,
145 Flapped his wings at Pau-Puk-Keewis.
 "All are gone ! the lodge is empty ! "
Thus it was spake Pau-Puk-Keewis,
In his heart resolving mischief ; —
 "Gone is wary Hiawatha,
150 Gone the silly Laughing Water,
Gone Nokomis, the old woman,
And the lodge is left unguarded ! "
 By the neck he seized the raven,
Whirled it round him like a rattle,
155 Like a medicine-pouch he shook it,
Strangled Kahgahgee, the raven,
From the ridge-pole of the wigwam
Left its lifeless body hanging,
As an insult to its master,
160 As a taunt to Hiawatha.

With a stealthy step he entered,
Round the lodge in wild disorder
Threw the household things about him,
Piled together in confusion

225 Bowls of wood and earthen kettles,
Robes of buffalo and beaver,
Skins of otter, lynx, and ermine,
As an insult to Nokomis,
As a taunt to Minnehaha.

230 Then departed Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Whistling, singing through the forest,
Whistling gayly to the squirrels,
Who from hollow boughs above him
Dropped their acorn-shells upon him,
235 Singing gayly to the wood-birds,
Who from out the leafy darkness
Answered with a song as merry.

Then he climbed the rocky headlands
Looking o'er the Gitche Gumee,
240 Perched himself upon their summit,
Waiting full of mirth and mischief
The return of Hiawatha.

Stretched upon his back he lay there ;
Far below him plashed the waters,
245 Plashed and washed the dreamy waters ;
Far above him swam the heavens,
Swam the dizzy, dreamy heavens ;
Round him hovered, fluttered, rustled,
Hiawatha's mountain chickens,
250 Flock-wise swept and wheeled about him,
Almost brushed him with their pinions.

And he killed them as he lay there,
Slaughtered them by tens and twenties,
Threw their bodies down the headland,

255 Threw them on the beach below him,
 Till at length Kayoshk, the sea-gull,
 Perched upon a crag above them,
 Shouted : " It is Pau-Puk-Keewis !
 He is slaying us by hundreds !
 260 Send a message to our brother,
 Tidings send to Hiawatha ! "

XVII.

THE HUNTING OF PAU-PUK-KEEWIS.

FULL of wrath was Hiawatha
 When he came into the village,
 Found the people in confusion,
 Heard of all the misdemeanors,
 5 All the malice and the mischief,
 Of the cunning Pau-Puk-Keewis.

Hard his breath came through his nostrils,
 Through his teeth he buzzed and muttered
 Words of anger and resentment,
 10 Hot and humming like a hornet.
 " I will slay this Pau-Puk-Keewis,
 Slay this mischief-maker ! " said he.
 " Not so long and wide the world is,
 Not so rude and rough the way is,
 15 That my wrath shall not attain him,
 That my vengeance shall not reach him ! "

Then in swift pursuit departed
 Hiawatha and the hunters
 On the trail of Pau-Puk-Keewis,
 20 Through the forest, where he passed it,
 To the headlands where he rested ;
 But they found not Pau-Puk-Keewis,

Only in the trampled grasses,
In the whortleberry-bushes,
» Found the couch where he had rested,
Found the impress of his body.

From the lowlands far beneath them,
From the Muskoday, the meadow,
Pau-Puk-Keewis, turning backward,
» Made a gesture of defiance,
Made a gesture of derision ;
And aloud cried Hiawatha,
From the summit of the mountains :
“ Not so long and wide the world is,
» Not so rude and rough the way is,
But my wrath shall overtake you,
And my vengeance shall attain you ! ”

Over rock and over river,
Thorough bush, and brake, and forest,
» Ran the cunning Pau-Puk-Keewis ;
Like an antelope he bounded,
Till he came unto a streamlet
In the middle of the forest,
To a streamlet still and tranquil,
» That had overflowed its margin,
To a dam made by the beavers,
To a pond of quiet water,
Where knee-deep the trees were standing,
Where the water-lilies floated,
» Where the rushes waved and whispered.

On the dam stood Pau-Puk-Keewis,
On the dam of trunks and branches,
Through whose chinks the water spouted,
O'er whose summit flowed the streamlet.
» From the bottom rose the beaver,
Looked with two great eyes of wonder,

Eyes that seemed to ask a question,
At the stranger, Pau-Puk-Keewis.

On the dam stood Pau-Puk-Keewis,
o O'er his ankles flowed the streamlet,
Flowed the bright and silvery water,
And he spake unto the beaver,
With a smile he spake in this wise :

“ O my friend Ahmeek, the beaver,
e Cool and pleasant is the water ;
Let me dive into the water,
Let me rest there in your lodges ;
Change me, too, into a beaver ! ”

Cautiously replied the beaver,
o With reserve he thus made answer :
“ Let me first consult the others,
Let me ask the other beavers.”
Down he sank into the water,
Heavily sank he, as a stone sinks,
n Down among the leaves and branches,
Brown and matted at the bottom.

On the dam stood Pau-Puk-Keewis,
O'er his ankles flowed the streamlet,
Spouted through the chinks below him,
o Dashed upon the stones beneath him,
Spread serene and calm before him,
And the sunshine and the shadows
Fell in flecks and gleams upon him,
Fell in little shining patches,
e Through the waving, rustling branches.

From the bottom rose the beavers,
Silently above the surface
Rose one head and then another,
Till the pond seemed full of beavers,
o Full of black and shining faces.

To the beavers Pau-Puk-Keewis
Spake entreating, said in this wise:
“ Very pleasant is your dwelling,
O my friends ! and safe from danger ;
ss Can you not with all your cunning,
All your wisdom and contrivance,
Change me, too, into a beaver ? ”
“ Yes ! ” replied Ahmeek, the beaver,
He the King of all the beavers,
100 “ Let yourself slide down among us,
Down into the tranquil water.”

Down into the pond among them
Silently sank Pau-Puk-Keewis ;
Black became his shirt of deer-skin,
105 Black his moccasins and leggins,
In a broad black tail behind him
Spread his fox-tails and his fringes ;
He was changed into a beaver.

“ Make me large,” said Pau-Puk-Keewis,
110 “ Make me large and make me larger,
Larger than the other beavers.”
“ Yes,” the beaver chief responded,
“ When our lodge below you enter,
In our wigwam we will make you
115 Ten times larger than the others.”

Thus into the clear brown water
Silently sank Pau-Puk-Keewis ;
Found the bottom covered over
With the trunks of trees and branches,
120 Hoards of food against the winter,
Piles and heaps against the famine,
Found the lodge with arching doorway,
Leading into spacious chambers.

Here they made him large and larger,

125 Made him largest of the beavers,
Ten times larger than the others.
" You shall be our ruler," said they ;
" Chief and king of all the beavers."

But not long had Pau-Puk-Keewis
130 Sat in state among the beavers,
When there came a voice of warning
From the watchman at his station
In the water-flags and lilies,
Saying, " Here is Hiawatha !
135 Hiawatha with his hunters ! "

Then they heard a cry above them,
Heard a shouting and a tramping,
Heard a crashing and a rushing,
And the water round and o'er them
140 Sank and sucked away in eddies,
And they knew their dam was broken.

On the lodge's roof the hunters
Leaped, and broke it all asunder ;
Streamed the sunshine through the crevice,
145 Sprang the beavers through the doorway,
Hid themselves in deeper water,
In the channel of the streamlet ;
But the mighty Pau-Puk-Keewis
Could not pass beneath the doorway ;
150 He was puffed with pride and feeding,
He was swollen like a bladder.

Through the roof looked Hiawatha,
Cried aloud, " O Pau-Puk-Keewis !
Vain are all your craft and cunning,
155 Vain your manifold disguises !
Well I know you, Pau-Puk-Keewis ! "
With their clubs they beat and bruised him,
Beat to death poor Pau-Puk-Keewis,

Pounded him as maize is pounded,
180 Till his skull was crushed to pieces.

Six tall hunters, lithe and limber,
Bore him home on poles and branches,
Bore the body of the beaver ;
But the ghost, the Jeebi in him,
185 Thought and felt as Pau-Puk-Keewis,
Still lived on as Pau-Puk-Keewis.

And it fluttered, strove, and struggled,
Waving hither, waving thither,
As the curtains of a wigwam
190 Struggle with their thongs of deer-skin,
When the wintry wind is blowing ;
Till it drew itself together,
Till it rose up from the body,
Till it took the form and features
195 Of the cunning Pau-Puk-Keewis
Vanishing into the forest.

But the wary Hiawatha
Saw the figure ere it vanished,
Saw the form of Pau-Puk-Keewis
200 Glide into the soft blue shadow
Of the pine-trees of the forest ;
Toward the squares of white beyond it,
Toward an opening in the forest,
Like a wind it rushed and panted,
205 Bending all the boughs before it,
And behind it, as the rain comes,
Came the steps of Hiawatha.

To a lake with many islands
Came the breathless Pau-Puk-Keewis,
210 Where among the water-lilies
Pishnekuh, the brant, were sailing ;
Through the tufts of rushes floating,

Steering through the reedy islands.

Now their broad black beaks they lifted,

188 Now they plunged beneath the water,

Now they darkened in the shadow,

Now they brightened in the sunshine.

“ Pishnekuh ! ” cried Pau-Puk-Keewis,

“ Pishnekuh ! my brothers ! ” said he,

200 “ Change me to a brant with plumage,

With a shining neck and feathers,

Make me large, and make me larger,

Ten times larger than the others.”

Straightway to a brant they changed him,

205 With two huge and dusky pinions,

With a bosom smooth and rounded,

With a bill like two great paddles,

Made him larger than the others,

Ten times larger than the largest,

210 Just as, shouting from the forest,

On the shore stood Hiawatha.

Up they rose with cry and clamor,

With a whirr and beat of pinions,

Rose up from the reedy islands,

215 From the water-flags and lilies.

And they said to Pau-Puk-Keewis :

“ In your flying, look not downward,

Take good heed, and look not downward,

Lest some strange mishance should happen,

220 Lest some great mishap befall you ! ”

Fast and far they fled to northward,

Fast and far through mist and sunshine,

Fed among the moors and fen-lands,

Slept among the reeds and rushes.

225 On the morrow as they journeyed,

Buoyed and lifted by the South-wind,

Wafted onward by the South-wind,
Blowing fresh and strong behind them,
Rose a sound of human voices,

220 Rose a clamor from beneath them,
From the lodges of a village,
From the people miles beneath them.

For the people of the village
Saw the flock of brant with wonder,

225 Saw the wings of Pau-Puk-Keewis
Flapping far up in the ether,
Broader than two doorway curtains.

Pau-Puk-Keewis heard the shouting,
Knew the voice of Hiawatha,

230 Knew the outcry of Iagoo,
And, forgetful of the warning,
Drew his neck in, and looked downward,
And the wind that blew behind him
Caught his mighty fan of feathers,
235 Sent him wheeling, whirling downward !

All in vain did Pau-Puk-Keewis
Struggle to regain his balance !

Whirling round and round and downward,
He beheld in turn the village
240 And in turn the flock above him,
Saw the village coming nearer,
And the flock receding farther,
Heard the voices growing louder,
Heard the shouting and the laughter ;
245 Saw no more the flock above him,
Only saw the earth beneath him ;
Dead out of the empty heaven,
Dead among the shouting people,
With a heavy sound and sullen,
250 Fell the brant with broken pinions.

But his soul, his ghost, his shadow,

Still survived as Pau-Puk-Keewis,
 Took again the form and features
 Of the handsome Yenadizze,
 265 And again went rushing onward, . . .
 Followed fast by Hiawatha,
 Crying : "Not so wide the world is,
 Not so long and rough the way is,
 But my wrath shall overtake you,
 270 But my vengeance shall attain you!"

And so near he came, so near him,
 That his hand was stretched to seize him,
 His right hand to seize and hold him,
 When the cunning Pau-Puk-Keewis
 275 Whirled and spun about in circles,
 Fanned the air into a whirlwind,
 Danced the dust and leaves about him,
 And amid the whirling eddies
 Sprang into a hollow oak-tree,
 280 Changed himself into a serpent,
 Gliding out through root and rubbish.

With his right hand Hiawatha
 Smote amain the hollow oak-tree,
 Rent it into shreds and splinters,
 285 Left it lying there in fragments.
 But in vain ; for Pau-Puk-Keewis,
 Once again in human figure,
 Full in sight ran on before him,
 Sped away in gust and whirlwind,
 290 On the shores of Gitche Gumee,
 Westward by the Big-Sea-Water,
 Came unto the rocky headlands,
 To the Pictured Rocks of sandstone,
 Looking over lake and landscape.

293. For a long description of the Pictured Rocks, see Fos-

288 And the Old Man of the Mountain,
 He the Manitoo of Mountains,
 Opened wide his rocky doorways,
 Opened wide his deep abysses,
 Giving Pau-Puk-Keewis shelter
 290 In his caverns dark and dreary,
 Bidding Pau-Puk-Keewis welcome
 To his gloomy lodge of sandstone.
 There without stood Hiawatha,
 Found the doorways closed against him,
 295 With his mittens, Minjekahwun,
 Smote great caverns in the sandstone,
 Cried aloud in tones of thunder,
 "Open! I am Hiawatha!"
 But the Old Man of the Mountain
 300 Opened not, and made no answer
 From the silent crags of sandstone,
 From the gloomy rock abysses.
 Then he raised his hands to heaven,
 Called imploring on the tempest,
 305 Called Waywassimo, the lightning,
 And the thunder, Annemeekie;
 And they came with night and darkness,

ter and Whitney's *Report on the Geology of the Lake Superior Land District*, Part II., p. 124.

"The term *Pictured Rocks* has been in use for a great length of time; but when it was first applied we have been unable to discover. It would seem that the first travellers were more impressed with the novel and striking distribution of colors on the surface, than with the astonishing variety of form into which the cliffs themselves have been worn." . . . "Our voyageurs had many legends to relate of the pranks of the *Menni-bojou* in these caverns, and, in answer to our inquiries, seemed disposed to fabricate stories without end of this Indian deity." — Foster and Whitney, p. 125.

Sweeping down the Big-Sea-Water
 From the distant Thunder Mountains ;
 220 And the trembling Pau-Puk-Keewis
 Heard the footsteps of the thunder,
 Saw the red eyes of the lightning,
 Was afraid, and crouched and trembled.
 Then Waywassimo, the lightning,
 225 Smote the doorways of the caverns,
 With his war-club smote the doorways,
 Smote the jutting crags of sandstone,
 And the thunder, Annemeekee,
 Shouted down into the caverns,
 230 Saying, " Where is Pau-Puk-Keewis ! " "
 And the crags fell, and beneath them
 Dead among the rocky ruins
 Lay the cunning Pau-Puk-Keewis,
 Lay the handsome Yenadizze,
 235 Slain in his own human figure.

Ended were his wild adventures,
 Ended were his tricks and gambols,
 Ended all his craft and cunning,
 Ended all his mischief-making,
 240 All his gambling and his dancing,
 All his wooing of the maidens.

Then the noble Hiawatha
 Took his soul, his ghost, his shadow,
 Spake and said : " O Pau-Puk-Keewis,
 245 Never more in human figure
 Shall you search for new adventures ;
 Never more with jest and laughter
 Dance the dust and leaves in whirlwinds ;
 But above there in the heavens
 250 You shall soar and sail in circles ;
 I will change you to an eagle,

To Keneu, the great war-eagle,
 Chief of all the fowls with feathers,
 Chief of Hiawatha's chickens."

255 And the name of Pau-Puk-Keewis
 Lingers still among the people,
 Lingers still among the singers,
 And among the story-tellers ;
 And in Winter, when the snow-flakes
 260 Whirl in eddies round the lodges,
 When the wind in gusty tumult
 O'er the smoke-flue pipes and whistles,
 "There," they cry, "comes Pau-Puk-Keewis ;
 He is dancing through the village,
 265 He is gathering in his harvest ! "

XVIII.

THE DEATH OF KWASIND.

FAR and wide among the nations
 Spread the name and fame of Kwasind ;
 No man dared to strive with Kwasind,
 No man could compete with Kwasind.

5 But the mischievous Puk-Wudjies,
 They the envious Little People,
 They the fairies and the pygmies,
 Plotted and conspired against him.
 "If this hateful Kwasind," said they,
 10 "If this great, outrageous fellow
 Goes on thus a little longer,
 Tearing everything he touches,
 Rending everything to pieces,
 Filling all the world with wonder,
 15 What becomes of the Puk-Wudjies ?

Who will care for the Puk-Wudjies ?
He will tread us down like mushrooms,
Drive us all into the water,
Give our bodies to be eaten

20 By the wicked Nee-ba-naw-baigs,
By the Spirits of the water ! ”

So the angry Little People
All conspired against the Strong Man,
All conspired to murder Kwasind,
25 Yes, to rid the world of Kwasind,
The audacious, overbearing,
Heartless, haughty, dangerous Kwasind !

Now this wondrous strength of Kwasind
In his crown alone was seated ;
30 In his crown too was his weakness ;
There alone could he be wounded,
Nowhere else could weapon pierce him,
Nowhere else could weapon harm him.

Even there the only weapon
35 That could wound him, that could slay him,
Was the seed-cone of the pine-tree,
Was the blue cone of the fir-tree.
This was Kwasind’s fatal secret,
Known to no man among mortals ;
40 But the cunning Little People,
The Puk-Wudjies, knew the secret,
Knew the only way to kill him.

So they gathered cones together,
Gathered seed-cones of the pine-tree,
45 Gathered blue cones of the fir-tree,
In the woods by Taquamenaw,
Brought them to the river’s margin,
Heaped them in great piles together,
Where the red rocks from the margin

» Jutting overhang the river.
There they lay in wait for Kwasind,
The malicious Little People.

'T was an afternoon in Summer ;
Very hot and still the air was,
» Very smooth the gliding river,
Motionless the sleeping shadows :
Insects glistened in the sunshine,
Insects skated on the water,
Filled the drowsy air with buzzing,
» With a far-resounding war-cry.

Down the river came the Strong Man,
In his birch canoe came Kwasind,
Floating slowly down the current
Of the sluggish Taquamenaw,
» Very languid with the weather,
Very sleepy with the silence.

From the overhanging branches,
From the tassels of the birch-trees,
Soft the Spirit of Sleep descended ;
» By his airy hosts surrounded,
His invisible attendants,
Came the Spirit of Sleep, Nepahwin ;
Like the burnished Dush-kwo-ne-she,
Like a dragon-fly, he hovered
» O'er the drowsy head of Kwasind.

To his ear there came a murmur
As of waves upon a sea-shore,
As of far-off tumbling waters,
As of winds among the pine-trees ;
» And he felt upon his forehead
Blows of little airy war-clubs,
Wielded by the slumbrous legions

Of the Spirit of Sleep, Nepahwin,
As of some one breathing on him.

85 At the first blow of their war-clubs,
Fell a drowsiness on Kwasind ;

At the second blow they smote him,
Motionless his paddle rested ;

At the third, before his vision

80 Reeled the landscape into darkness,
Very sound asleep was Kwasind.

So he floated down the river,
Like a blind man seated upright,
Floated down the Taquamenaw,

85 Underneath the trembling birch-trees,
Underneath the wooded headlands,
Underneath the war encampment
Of the pygmies, the Puk-Wudjies.

There they stood, all armed and waiting,

100 Hurled the pine-cones down upon him,
Struck him on his brawny shoulders,
On his crown defenceless struck him.

“ Death to Kwasind ! ” was the sudden
War-cry of the Little People.

105 And he sideways swayed and tumbled,
Sideways fell into the river,
Plunged beneath the sluggish water
Headlong, as an otter plunges ;

And the birch canoe, abandoned,

110 Drifted empty down the river,
Bottom upward swerved and drifted :
Nothing more was seen of Kwasind.

But the memory of the Strong Man

Lingered long among the people,

115 And whenever through the forest
Raged and roared the wintry tempest,

And the branches, tossed and troubled,
 Creaked and groaned and split asunder,
 “Kwasind!” cried they; “that is Kwasind!
 120 He is gathering in his fire-wood!”

XIX.

THE GHOSTS.

NEVER stoops the soaring vulture
 On his quarry in the desert,
 On the sick or wounded bison,
 But another vulture, watching
 6 From his high aerial look-out,
 Sees the downward plunge, and follows;
 And a third pursues the second,
 Coming from the invisible ether,
 First a speck, and then a vulture,
 10 Till the air is dark with pinions.

So disasters come not singly;
 But as if they watched and waited,
 Scanning one another's motions,
 When the first descends, the others
 15 Follow, follow, gathering flock-wise
 Round their victim, sick and wounded,
 First a shadow, then a sorrow,
 Till the air is dark with anguish.

Now, o'er all the dreary Northland,
 20 Mighty Peboan, the Winter,
 Breathing on the lakes and rivers,
 Into stone had changed their waters.
 From his hair he shook the snow-flakes,
 Till the plains were strewn with whiteness,
 25 One uninterrupted level,

As if, stooping, the Creator
With his hand had smoothed them over.
Through the forest, wide and wailing,
Roamed the hunter on his snow-shoes ;

30 In the village worked the women,
Pounded maize, or dressed the deer-skin ;
And the young men played together
On the ice the noisy ball-play,
On the plain the dance of snow-shoes.

35 One dark evening, after sundown,
In her wigwam Laughing Water
Sat with old Nokomis, waiting
For the steps of Hiawatha
Homeward from the hunt returning.

40 On their faces gleamed the fire-light,
Painting them with streaks of crimson,
In the eyes of old Nokomis
Glimmered like the watery moonlight,
In the eyes of Laughing Water

45 Glistened like the sun in water ;
And behind them crouched their shadows
In the corners of the wigwam,
And the smoke in wreaths above them
Climbed and crowded through the smoke-flue.

50 Then the curtain of the doorway
From without was slowly lifted ;
Brighter glowed the fire a moment,
And a moment swerved the smoke-wreath,
As two women entered softly,

55 Passed the doorway uninvited,
Without word of salutation,
Without sign of recognition,
Sat down in the farthest corner,
Crouching low among the shadows.

66 From their aspect and their garments,
 Strangers seemed they in the village ;
 Very pale and haggard were they,
 As they sat there sad and silent,
 Trembling, cowering with the shadows.

67 Was it the wind above the smoke-flue,
 Muttering down into the wigwam ?
 Was it the owl, the Koko-koho,
 Hooting from the dismal forest ?
 Sure a voice said in the silence :

70 "These are corpses clad in garments,
 These are ghosts that come to haunt you,
 From the kingdom of Ponemah,
 From the land of the Hereafter ! "

Homeward now came Hiawatha

75 From his hunting in the forest,
 With the snow upon his tresses,
 And the red deer on his shoulders.
 At the feet of Laughing Water
 Down he threw his lifeless burden ;

80 Nobler, handsomer she thought him,
 Than when first he came to woo her,
 First threw down the deer before her,
 As a token of his wishes,
 As a promise of the future.

85 Then he turned and saw the strangers,
 Cowering, crouching with the shadows ;
 Said within himself, " Who are they ?
 What strange guests has Minnehaha ? "

90 But he questioned not the strangers,
 Only spake to bid them welcome
 To his lodge, his food, his fireside.

91. "From an invariable custom among these Northern Indians, any one who is hungry is allowed to walk into any man's lodge and eat." — Catlin, p. 240.

When the evening meal was ready,
And the deer had been divided,
Both the pallid guests, the strangers,
125 Springing from among the shadows,
Seized upon the choicest portions,
Seized the white fat of the roebuck,
Set apart for Laughing Water,
For the wife of Hiawatha ;

100 Without asking, without thanking,
Eagerly devoured the morsels,
Flitted back among the shadows
In the corner of the wigwam.

Not a word spake Hiawatha,
105 Not a motion made Nokomis,
Not a gesture Laughing Water ;
Not a change came o'er their features ;
Only Minnehaha softly
Whispered, saying, "They are famished ;

110 Let them do what best delights them ;
Let them eat, for they are famished."

Many a daylight dawned and darkened,
Many a night shook off the daylight
As the pine shakes off the snow-flakes

115 From the midnight of its branches ;
Day by day the guests unmoving
Sat there silent in the wigwam ;
But by night, in storm or starlight,
Forth they went into the forest,

120 Bringing fire-wood to the wigwam,
Bringing pine-cones for the burning,
Always sad and always silent.

And whenever Hiawatha
Came from fishing or from hunting,
125 When the evening meal was ready,

And the food had been divided,
Gliding from their darksome corner,
Came the pallid guests, the strangers,
Seized upon the choicest portions

130 Set aside for Laughing Water,
And without rebuke or question
Flitted back among the shadows.

Never once had Hiawatha
By a word or look reproved them;

135 Never once had old Nokomis
Made a gesture of impatience;
Never once had Laughing Water
Shown resentment at the outrage.

All had they endured in silence,
140 That the rights of guest and stranger,
That the virtue of free-giving,
By a look might not be lessened,
By a word might not be broken.

Once at midnight Hiawatha,
145 Ever wakeful, ever watchful,
In the wigwam, dimly lighted
By the brands that still were burning,
By the glimmering, flickering fire-light,
Heard a sighing, oft repeated,
150 Heard a sobbing as of sorrow.

From his couch rose Hiawatha,
From his shaggy hides of bison,
Pushed aside the deer-skin curtain,
Saw the pallid guests, the shadows,
155 Sitting upright on their couches,
Weeping in the silent midnight.

And he said: "O guests! why is it
That your hearts are so afflicted,
That you sob so in the midnight?"

160 Has perchance the old Nokomis,
Has my wife, my Minnehaha,
Wronged or grieved you by unkindness,
Failed in hospitable duties?"

Then the shadows ceased from weeping,

165 Ceased from sobbing and lamenting,
And they said, with gentle voices :
" We are ghosts of the departed,
Souls of those who once were with you.
From the realms of Chibiabos

170 Hither have we come to try you,
Hither have we come to warn you.

" Cries of grief and lamentation

Reach us in the Blessed Islands :

Cries of anguish from the living,

175 Calling back their friends departed,
Sadden us with useless sorrow.

Therefore have we come to try you ;
No one knows us, no one heeds us.

We are but a burden to you,

180 And we see that the departed
Have no place among the living.

" Think of this, O Hiawatha !

Speak of it to all the people,

That henceforward and forever

185 They no more with lamentations
Sadden the souls of the departed
In the Islands of the Blessed.

" Do not lay such heavy burdens

In the graves of those you bury,

190 Not such weight of furs and wampum,
Not such weight of pots and kettles,
For the spirits faint beneath them.

Only give them food to carry,
Only give them fire to light them.

195 "Four days is the spirit's journey
To the land of ghosts and shadows,
Four its lonely night encampments ;
Four times must their fires be lighted.
Therefore, when the dead are buried,

200 Let a fire, as night approaches,
Four times on the grave be kindled,
That the soul upon its journey
May not lack the cheerful fire-light,
May not grope about in darkness.

205 "Farewell, noble Hiawatha !
We have put you to the trial,
To the proof have put your patience,
By the insult of our presence,
By the outrage of our actions.

210 We have found you great and noble.
Fail not in the greater trial,
Faint not in the harder struggle."

When they ceased, a sudden darkness
Fell and filled the silent wigwam.

215 Hiawatha heard a rustle
As of garments trailing by him,
Heard the curtain of the doorway
Lifted by a hand he saw not,
Felt the cold breath of the night air,
220 For a moment saw the starlight ;
But he saw the ghosts no longer,
Saw no more the wandering spirits
From the kingdom of Ponemah,
From the land of the Hereafter.

XX.

THE FAMINE.

O THE long and dreary Winter !
O the cold and cruel Winter !
Ever thicker, thicker, thicker
Froze the ice on lake and river,
Ever deeper, deeper, deeper,
Fell the snow o'er all the landscape,
Fell the covering snow, and drifted
Through the forest, round the village.

Hardly from his buried wigwam
Could the hunter force a passage ;
With his mittens and his snow-shoes
Vainly walked he through the forest,
Sought for bird or beast and found none,
Saw no track of deer or rabbit,
In the snow beheld no footprints,
In the ghastly, gleaming forest
Fell, and could not rise from weakness,
Perished there from cold and hunger.

O the famine and the fever !
O the wasting of the famine !
O the blasting of the fever !
O the wailing of the children !
O the anguish of the women !
All the earth was sick and famished ;
Hungry was the air around them,
Hungry was the sky above them,
And the hungry stars in heaven
Like the eyes of wolves glared at them !
Into Hiawatha's wigwam

» Came two other guests as silent
As the ghosts were, and as gloomy,
Waited not to be invited,
Did not parley at the doorway,
Sat there without word of welcome

» In the seat of Laughing Water;
Looked with haggard eyes and hollow
At the face of Laughing Water.

And the foremost said: "Behold me!
I am Famine, Bukadawin!"

» And the other said: "Behold me!
I am Fever, Ahkosewin!"

And the lovely Minnehaha
Shuddered as they looked upon her,
Shuddered at the words they uttered,

» Lay down on her bed in silence,
Hid her face, but made no answer;
Lay there trembling, freezing, burning
At the looks they cast upon her,
At the fearful words they uttered.

» Forth into the empty forest
Rushed the maddened Hiawatha;
In his heart was deadly sorrow,
In his face a stony firmness;
On his brow the sweat of anguish

» Started, but it froze and fell not.
Wrapped in furs and armed for hunting,
With his mighty bow of ash-tree,
With his quiver full of arrows,
With his mittens, Minjekahwun,

» Into the vast and vacant forest
On his snow-shoes strode he forward.
"Gitche Manitou, the Mighty!"
Cried he with his face uplifted

In that bitter hour of anguish,
65 "Give your children food, O father !
Give us food, or we must perish !
Give me food for Minnehaha,
For my dying Minnehaha !"

Through the far-resounding forest,
70 Through the forest vast and vacant
Rang that cry of desolation,
But there came no other answer
Than the echo of his crying,
Than the echo of the woodlands,
75 "Minnehaha ! Minnehaha !"

All day long roved Hiawatha
In that melancholy forest,
Through the shadow of whose thickets,
In the pleasant days of Summer,
80 Of that ne'er forgotten Summer,
He had brought his young wife homeward
From the land of the Dacotahs ;
When the birds sang in the thickets,
And the streamlets laughed and glistened,
85 And the air was full of fragrance,
And the lovely Laughing Water
Said with voice that did not tremble,
"I will follow you, my husband !"

In the wigwam with Nokomis,
90 With those gloomy guests that watched her,
With the Famine and the Fever,
She was lying, the Beloved,
She the dying Minnehaha.

"Hark !" she said ; "I hear a rushing,
95 Hear a roaring and a rushing,
Hear the Falls of Minnehaha
Calling to me from a distance !"

“No, my child !” said old Nokomis,

“T is the night-wind in the pine-trees !”

100 “Look !” she said ; “I see my father

Standing lonely at his doorway,

Beckoning to me from his wigwam

In the land of the Dacotahs !”

“No, my child !” said old Nokomis,

105 “T is the smoke, that waves and beckons !”

“Ah !” said she, “the eyes of Pauguk

Glare upon me in the darkness,

I can feel his icy fingers

Clasping mine amid the darkness !

110 Hiawatha ! Hiawatha !”

And the desolate Hiawatha,

Far away amid the forest,

Miles away among the mountains,

Heard that sudden cry of anguish,

115 Heard the voice of Minnehaha

Calling to him in the darkness,

“Hiawatha ! Hiawatha !”

Over snow-fields waste and pathless,

Under snow-encumbered branches,

120 Homeward hurried Hiawatha,

Empty-handed, heavy-hearted,

Heard Nokomis moaning, wailing :

“Wahonowin ! Wahonowin !

Would that I had perished for you,

125 Would that I were dead as you are !

Wahonowin ! Wahonowin !”

And he rushed into the wigwam,

Saw the old Nokomis slowly

Rocking to and fro and moaning,

130 Saw his lovely Minnehaha

Lying dead and cold before him,

And his bursting heart within him
Uttered such a cry of anguish,
That the forest moaned and shuddered,
135 That the very stars in heaven
Shook and trembled with his anguish.

Then he sat down, still and speechless,
On the bed of Minnehaha,
At the feet of Laughing Water,
140 At those willing feet, that never
More would lightly run to meet him,
Never more would lightly follow.

With both hands his face he covered,
Seven long days and nights he sat there,
145 As if in a swoon he sat there,
Speechless, motionless, unconscious
Of the daylight or the darkness.

Then they buried Minnehaha ;
In the snow a grave they made her,
150 In the forest deep and darksome,
Underneath the moaning hemlocks ;
Clothed her in her richest garments,
Wrapped her in her robes of ermine,
Covered her with snow, like ermine ;
155 Thus they buried Minnehaha.

And at night a fire was lighted,
On her grave four times was kindled,
For her soul upon its journey
To the Islands of the Blessed.
160 From his doorway Hiawatha
Saw it burning in the forest,
Lighting up the gloomy hemlocks ;
From his sleepless bed uprising,
From the bed of Minnehaha,
165 Stood and watched it at the doorway,

That it might not be extinguished,
Might not leave her in the darkness.

“ Farewell ! ” said he, “ Minnehaha !
Farewell, O my Laughing Water !

170 All my heart is buried with you,
All my thoughts go onward with you !
Come not back again to labor,
Come not back again to suffer,
Where the Famine and the Fever

175 Wear the heart and waste the body.
Soon my task will be completed,
Soon your footsteps I shall follow
To the Islands of the Blessed,
To the Kingdom of Ponemah,
180 To the Land of the Hereafter ! ”

XXI.

THE WHITE MAN’S FOOT.

IN his lodge beside a river,
Close beside a frozen river,
Sat an old man, sad and lonely.

White his hair was as a snow-drift ;

185 Dull and low his fire was burning,
And the old man shook and trembled,
Folded in his Waubewyon,
In his tattered white-skin-wrapper,
Hearing nothing but the tempest

190 As it roared along the forest,
Seeing nothing but the snow-storm,
As it whirled and hissed and drifted.
All the coals were white with ashes,

And the fire was slowly dying,

15 As a young man, walking lightly,
At the open doorway entered.
Red with blood of youth his cheeks were,
Soft his eyes, as stars in Spring-time,
Bound his forehead was with grasses,

20 Bound and plumed with scented grasses ;
On his lips a smile of beauty,
Filling all the lodge with sunshine,
In his hand a bunch of blossoms
Filling all the lodge with sweetness.

25 " Ah, my son ! " exclaimed the old man,
" Happy are my eyes to see you.
Sit here on the mat beside me,
Sit here by the dying embers,
Let us pass the night together.

30 Tell me of your strange adventures,
Of the lands where you have travelled ;
I will tell you of my prowess,
Of my many deeds of wonder."

From his pouch he drew his peace-pipe,

35 Very old and strangely fashioned ;
Made of red stone was the pipe-head,
And the stem a reed with feathers ;
Filled the pipe with bark of willow,
Placed a burning coal upon it,

40 Gave it to his guest, the stranger,
And began to speak in this wise :
" When I blow my breath about me,
When I breathe upon the landscape,
Motionless are all the rivers,

45 Hard as stone becomes the water ! "

And the young man answered, smiling :
" When I blow my breath about me,
When I breathe upon the landscape,

Flowers spring up o'er all the meadows,

64 Singing, onward rush the rivers!"

"When I shake my hoary tresses,"

Said the old man, darkly frowning,

"All the land with snow is covered;

All the leaves from all the branches

65 Fall and fade and die and wither,

For I breathe, and lo! they are not.

From the waters and the marshes

Rise the wild goose and the heron,

Fly away to distant regions,

66 For I speak, and lo! they are not.

And where'er my footsteps wander,

All the wild beasts of the forest

Hide themselves in holes and caverns,

And the earth becomes as flintstone!"

66 "When I shake my flowing ringlets,"

Said the young man, softly laughing,

"Showers of rain fall warm and welcome,

Plants lift up their heads rejoicing,

Back unto their lakes and marshes

70 Come the wild goose and the heron,

Homeward shoots the arrowy swallow,

Sing the bluebird and the robin,

And where'er my footsteps wander,

All the meadows wave with blossoms,

75 All the woodlands ring with music,

All the trees are dark with foliage!"

While they spake, the night departed:

From the distant realms of Wabun,

From his shining lodge of silver,

76 Like a warrior robed and painted,

Came the sun, and said, "Behold me!

Gheezis, the great sun, behold me!"

Then the old man's tongue was speechless
And the air grew warm and pleasant,
88 And upon the wigwam sweetly
Sang the bluebird and the robin,
And the stream began to murmur,
And a scent of growing grasses
Through the lodge was gently wafted.
90 And Segwun, the youthful stranger,
More distinctly in the daylight
Saw the icy face before him ;
It was Peboan, the Winter !
From his eyes the tears were flowing,
92 As from melting lakes the streamlets,
And his body shrunk and dwindled
As the shouting sun ascended,
Till into the air it faded,
Till into the ground it vanished,
100 And the young man saw before him,
On the hearth-stone of the wigwam,
Where the fire had smoked and smouldered,
Saw the earliest flower of Spring-time,
Saw the Beauty of the Spring-time,
105 Saw the Miskodeed in blossom.
Thus it was that in the North-land
After that unheard-of coldness,
That intolerable Winter,
Came the Spring with all its splendor,
110 All its birds and all its blossoms,
All its flowers and leaves and grasses.
Sailing on the wind to northward,
Flying in great flocks, like arrows,
Like huge arrows shot through heaven,
115 Passed the swan, the Mahnahbezee,
Speaking almost as a man speaks ;

And in long lines waving, bending
Like a bow-string snapped asunder,
Came the white goose, Waw-be-wawa ;

120 And in pairs, or singly flying,
Mahng the loon, with clangorous pinions,
The blue heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
And the grouse, the Mushkodasa.

In the thickets and the meadows

125 Piped the bluebird, the Owaissa,
On the summit of the lodges
Sang the robin, the Opechee,
In the covert of the pine-trees
Cooed the pigeon, the Omemee,

130 And the sorrowing Hiawatha,
Speechless in his infinite sorrow,
Heard their voices calling to him,
Went forth from his gloomy doorway,
Stood and gazed into the heaven,
135 Gazed upon the earth and waters.

From his wanderings far to eastward,
From the regions of the morning,
From the shining land of Wabun,
Homeward now returned Iagoo,
140 The great traveller, the great boaster,
Full of new and strange adventures,
Marvels many and many wonders.

And the people of the village
Listened to him as he told them
145 Of his marvellous adventures,
Laughing answered him in this wise :
“ Ugh ! it is indeed Iagoo !
No one else beholds such wonders ! ”

He had seen, he said, a water
150 Bigger than the Big-Sea-Water,

Broader than the Gitche Gumee,
 Bitter so that none could drink it !
 At each other looked the warriors,
 Looked the women at each other,
 155 Smiled, and said, " It cannot be so !
 Kaw ! " they said, " it cannot be so ! "
 O'er it, said he, o'er this water
 Came a great canoe with pinions,
 A canoe with wings came flying,
 160 Bigger than a grove of pine-trees,
 Taller than the tallest tree-tops !
 And the old men and the women
 Looked and tittered at each other ;
 " Kaw ! " they said, " we don't believe it ! "
 165 From its mouth, he said, to greet him,
 Came Waywassimo, the lightning,
 Came the thunder, Annemeekie !
 And the warriors and the women
 Laughed aloud at poor Iagoo ;
 170 " Kaw ! " they said, " what tales you tell us ! "
 In it, said he, came a people,
 In the great canoe with pinions
 Came, he said, a hundred warriors ;
 Painted white were all their faces,
 175 And with hair their chins were covered !
 And the warriors and the women
 Laughed and shouted in derision,
 Like the ravens on the tree-tops,
 Like the crows upon the hemlocks.
 180 " Kaw ! " they said, " what lies you tell us !
 Do not think that we believe them ! "
 Only Hiawatha laughed not,
 But he gravely spake and answered
 To their jeering and their jesting :

185 "True is all Iagoo tells us ;
 I have seen it in a vision,
 Seen the great canoe with pinions,
 Seen the people with white faces,
 Seen the coming of this bearded
 190 People of the wooden vessel
 From the regions of the morning,
 From the shining land of Wabun.
 "Gitche Manitou the Mighty,
 The Great Spirit, the Creator,
 195 Sends them hither on his errand,
 Sends them to us with his message.
 Wheresoe'er they move, before them
 Swarms the stinging fly, the Ahmo,
 Swarms the bee, the honey-maker ;
 200 Wheresoe'er they tread, beneath them
 Springs a flower unknown among us,
 Springs the White-man's Foot in blossom.
 "Let us welcome, then, the strangers,
 Hail them as our friends and brothers,
 205 And the heart's right hand of friendship
 Give them when they come to see us.
 Gitche Manitou, the Mighty,
 Said this to me in my vision.
 "I beheld, too, in that vision
 210 All the secrets of the future,
 Of the distant days that shall be.
 I beheld the westward marches
 Of the unknown, crowded nations.
 All the land was full of people,
 215 Restless, struggling, toiling, striving,
 Speaking many tongues, yet feeling
 But one heart-beat in their bosoms.

202. White-man's Foot, — *Plantago major*, common plantain.

In the woodlands rang their axes,
 Smoked their towns in all the valleys,
 220 Over all the lakes and rivers
 Rushed their great canoes of thunder.
 “Then a darker, drearier vision
 Passed before me, vague and cloud-like :
 I beheld our nation scattered,
 225 All forgetful of my counsels,
 Weakened, warring with each other ;
 Saw the remnants of our people
 Sweeping westward, wild and woful,
 Like the cloud-rack of a tempest,
 230 Like the withered leaves of Autumn !”

XXII.

HIAWATHA'S DEPARTURE.

By the shore of Gitche Gumee,
 By the shining Big-Sea-Water,
 At the doorway of his wigwam,
 In the pleasant summer morning,
 5 Hiawatha stood and waited.
 All the air was full of freshness,
 All the earth was bright and joyous,
 And before him, through the sunshine,
 Westward toward the neighboring forest
 10 Passed in golden swarms the Ahmo,
 Passed the bees, the honey-makers,
 Burning, singing in the sunshine.
 Bright above him shone the heavens,
 Level spread the lake before him ;
 15 From its bosom leaped the sturgeon,
 Sparkling, flashing in the sunshine ;

On its margin the great forest
Stood reflected in the water,
Every tree-top had its shadow,
 Motionless beneath the water.

From the brow of Hiawatha
Gone was every trace of sorrow,
As the fog from off the water,
As the mist from off the meadow.
 With a smile of joy and triumph,
With a look of exultation,
As of one who in a vision
Sees what is to be, but is not,
Stood and waited Hiawatha.

Toward the sun his hands were lifted,
Both the palms spread out against it,
And between the parted fingers
Fell the sunshine on his features,
Flecked with light his naked shoulders,
 As it falls and flecks an oak-tree
Through the rifted leaves and branches.

O'er the water floating, flying,
Something in the hazy distance,
Something in the mists of morning,
 Loomed and lifted from the water,
Now seemed floating, now seemed flying,
Coming nearer, nearer, nearer.

Was it Shingebis the diver ?
Or the pelican, the Shada ?
 Or the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah ?
Or the white goose, Waw-be-wawa,
With the water dripping, flashing
From its glossy neck and feathers ?

It was neither goose nor diver,
 Neither pelican nor heron,



“Came the Black-Robe chief, . . . the Pale-face”

O'er the water floating, flying,
Through the shining mist of morning,
But a birch canoe with paddles,
Rising, sinking on the water,
55 Dripping, flashing in the sunshine ;
And within it came a people
From the distant land of Wabun,
From the farthest realms of morning
Came the Black-Robe chief, the Prophet,
60 He the Priest of Prayer, the Pale-face,
With his guides and his companions.

And the noble Hiawatha,
With his hands aloft extended,
Held aloft in sign of welcome,
65 Waited, full of exultation,
Till the birch canoe with paddles
Grated on the shining pebbles,
Stranded on the sandy margin,
Till the Black-Robe chief, the Pale-face,
70 With the cross upon his bosom,
Landed on the sandy margin.

Then the joyous Hiawatha
Cried aloud and spake in this wise :
“ Beautiful is the sun, O strangers,
75 When you come so far to see us !
All our town in peace awaits you ;
All our doors stand open for you ;
You shall enter all our wigwams,
For the heart's right hand we give you.
80 “ Never bloomed the earth so gayly,
Never shone the sun so brightly,

63. In this manner and with such salutations was Father Marquette received by the Illinois.

As to-day they shine and blossom
When you come so far to see us !
Never was our lake so tranquil,
as Nor so free from rocks and sand-bars ;
For your birch canoe in passing
Has removed both rock and sand-bar.

“ Never before had our tobacco
Such a sweet and pleasant flavor,
so Never the broad leaves of our corn-fields
Were so beautiful to look on,
As they seem to us this morning,
When you come so far to see us ! ”

And the Black-Robe chief made answer,
so Stammered in his speech a little,
Speaking words yet unfamiliar :
“ Peace be with you, Hiawatha,
Peace be with you and your people,
Peace of prayer, and peace of pardon,
100 Peace of Christ, and joy of Mary ! ”

Then the generous Hiawatha
Led the strangers to his wigwam,
Seated them on skins of bison,
Seated them on skins of ermine,
106 And the careful old Nokomis
Brought them food in bowls of bass-wood,
Water brought in birchen dippers,
And the calumet, the peace-pipe,
Filled and lighted for their smoking.

110 All the old men of the village,
All the warriors of the nation,
All the Jossakeeds, the prophets,
The magicians, the Wabenos,
And the medicine-men, the Medas,
115 Came to bid the strangers welcome ;

“It is well,” they said, “O brothers,
That you come so far to see us !”

In a circle round the doorway,
With their pipes they sat in silence,
120 Waiting to behold the strangers,
Waiting to receive their message ;
Till the Black-Robe chief, the Pale-face,
From the wigwam came to greet them,
Stammering in his speech a little,
125 Speaking words yet unfamiliar ;
“It is well,” they said, “O brother,
That you come so far to see us !”
Then the Black-Robe chief, the prophet,
Told his message to the people,
130 Told the purport of his mission,
Told them of the Virgin Mary,
And her blessed Son, the Saviour,
How in distant lands and ages
He had lived on earth as we do ;
135 How he fasted, prayed, and labored ;
How the Jews, the tribe accursed,
Mocked him, scourged him, crucified him ;
How he rose from where they laid him,
Walked again with his disciples,
140 And ascended into heaven.

And the chiefs made answer, saying :
“We have listened to your message,
We have heard your words of wisdom,
We will think on what you tell us.
145 It is well for us, O brothers,
That you come so far to see us !”

Then they rose up and departed
Each one homeward to his wigwam,
To the young men and the women

150 Told the story of the strangers
Whom the Master of Life had sent them
From the shining land of Wabun.
Heavy with the heat and silence
Grew the afternoon of Summer,

155 With a drowsy sound the forest
Whispered round the sultry wigwam,
With a sound of sleep the water
Rippled on the beach below it;
From the corn-fields shrill and ceaseless

160 Sang the grasshopper, Pah-puk-keena;
And the guests of Hiawatha,
Weary with the heat of Summer,
Slumbered in the sultry wigwam.
Slowly o'er the simmering landscape

165 Fell the evening's dusk and coolness,
And the long and level sunbeams
Shot their spears into the forest,
Breaking through its shields of shadow,
Rushed into each secret ambush,

170 Searched each thicket, dingle, hollow;
Still the guests of Hiawatha
Slumbered in the silent wigwam.
From his place rose Hiawatha,
Bade farewell to old Nokomis,

175 Spake in whispers, spake in this wise,
Did not wake the guests, that slumbered :
“ I am going, O Nokomis,
On a long and distant journey,
To the portals of the Sunset,

180 To the regions of the home-wind,
Of the Northwest wind, Keewaydin.
But these guests I leave behind me,
In your watch and ward I leave them;

See that never harm comes near them,
185 See that never fear molests them,
Never danger nor suspicion,
Never want of food or shelter,
In the lodge of Hiawatha ! ”

Forth into the village went he,
190 Bade farewell to all the warriors,
Bade farewell to all the young men,
Spake persuading, spake in this wise :

“ I am going, O my people,
On a long and distant journey ;
195 Many moons and many winters
Will have come, and will have vanished,
Ere I come again to see you.
But my guests I leave behind me ;
Listen to their words of wisdom,
200 Listen to the truth they tell you,
For the Master of Life has sent them
From the land of light and morning ! ”

On the shore stood Hiawatha,
Turned and waved his hand at parting ;
205 On the clear and luminous water
Launched his birch canoe for sailing,
From the pebbles of the margin
Shoved it forth into the water ;
Whispered to it, “ Westward ! westward ! ”
210 And with speed it darted forward.

And the evening sun descending
Set the clouds on fire with redness,
Burned the broad sky, like a prairie,
Left upon the level water
215 One long track and trail of splendor,
Down whose stream, as down a river,
Westward, westward Hiawatha

Sailed into the fiery sunset,
Sailed into the purple vapors,
220 Sailed into the dusk of evening.

And the people from the margin
Watched him floating, rising, sinking,
Till the birch canoe seemed lifted
High into that sea of splendor,
225 Till it sank into the vapors
Like the new moon slowly, slowly
Sinking in the purple distance.

And they said, "Farewell forever!"
Said, "Farewell, O Hiawatha!"
230 And the forests, dark and lonely,
Moved through all their depths of darkness,
Sighed, "Farewell, O Hiawatha!"
And the waves upon the margin
Rising, rippling on the pebbles,
235 Sobbed, "Farewell, O Hiawatha!"
And the heron, the Shuh-shuh-gah,
From her haunts among the fen-lands,
Screamed, "Farewell, O Hiawatha!"
Thus departed Hiawatha,
240 Hiawatha the Beloved,
In the glory of the sunset,
In the purple mists of evening,
To the regions of the home-wind,
Of the Northwest wind, Keewaydin,
245 To the Islands of the Blessed,
To the kingdom of Ponemah,
To the land of the Hereafter!

INDIAN WEARING APPAREL AND UTENSILS.

THE dress of the Indians in the northern parts of America was composed of the skins of wild beasts, which they prepared with much care and skill. Shirts, trousers, and robes were fashioned with no little attempt at elegance, being ornamented with porcupine quills and animals' tails. Shoes, or moccasins, were made of moose-hide, or buck-skin, tied with thongs. Long leggings gave additional protection when needed. The head-dresses were especially fantastic, being often adorned with feathers, animals' tails and horns. The love of finery and display was innate in the race.

The Indians displayed much ingenuity in making their few and simple utensils. They had some skill in pottery, and also made dishes of wood, spoons of shells, and mortars of stone. Gourds served them for water-jugs and dippers, and they wove very good baskets of osiers and birch bark. They made convenient bags and pouches, gayly decorating them with shells, quills, and sometimes with an animal's head. Engaging so much in the chase, they naturally expended much care upon their bows and arrows. The arrow-heads were made of very hard stone, usually quartz or flint, and great numbers of them still exist to prove the skill of their manufacture. Tomahawks, axes, and gouges of stone were made so well as to serve very fairly the purposes for which we think it necessary to have steel instruments. For the babies, curious cradles or baskets were used, which could be strapped to the mother's back in travelling, or deposited in any convenient place. Great pipes, sometimes four feet long, were hewn from the catlinite or pipe-stone, and often were beautifully carved and inlaid with bits of ivory taken from the teeth of the walrus or the whale.



INDIAN WEARING APPAREL.

1. Bowstring guard for wrist. 2. Head-dress, Medicius. 3. Head-dress, Sioux. 4. Bracelet, Wolpi. 5. Bear-claw necklace. 6, 7. Earrings. 8. Necklace. 9. Legging and moccasin. 10. War shirt. 11. Blackfoot moccasin, green.



INDIAN UTENSILS.

1. Buffalo bow. 2. Pepago jug. 3. Pack basket. 4. Pottery vessel. 5. Mexican Indian olla. 6. Tomahawk. 7. Bone tool for making arrows. 8. Gourd drinking cup. 9. Iroquois bark vessel.



INDIAN UTENSILS.

1. Axe and quiver. 2. Stone mortar and pestle for grain. 3. Fish-hooks, common to northwest coast. 4. Shell spoon. 5. Fire-bag of Crowfoot, head chief of the Black-feet. 6. Rawhide cradle, Apache. 7. Pipe. 8. Stone "metat" for grinding corn.

1



2



3



4



5



6



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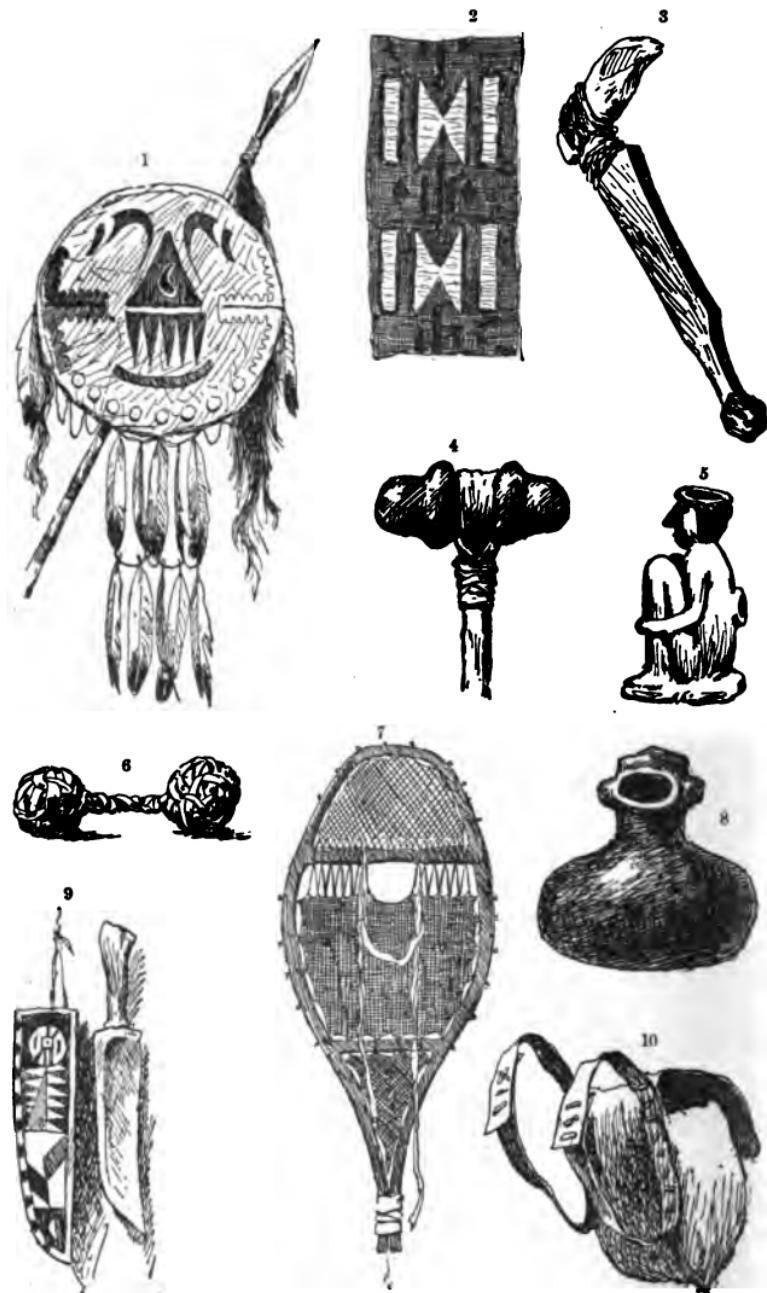


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INDIAN UTENSILS.

1. Fan of feathers, belonging to Crowfoot, head chief of Blackfeet. 2. Antique vase, Tennessee. 3. Prehistoric hoe and knife. 4. War clubs, antique. 5. Buffalo horn spoon. 6. Hoe. 7. Shell hatchet, antique. 8. Wooden dish, very old form.



INDIAN UTENSILS.

1. Shield and lance. 2. Wampum. 3. War-club. 4. Hammer, antique. 5. Pipe head. 6. Rawhide double ball, used in game like hockey. 7. Snowshoe. 8. Pottery. 9. Scalping knife and sheath. 10. Knapsack.

PRONOUNCING VOCABULARY OF INDIAN NAMES IN THE SONG OF HIAWATHA.

There cannot well be an absolutely authoritative pronunciation of Indian names. As they are spelled, they represent the sounds, as nearly as they could be caught and reproduced by those who came in contact with the Indians. Thus there is a mingling of English and French usage, but on the whole the broad sound of the vowels is common. The following vocabulary is an attempt at showing the pronunciation according to the most intelligible standard. The accent will usually be marked by the rhythm of the verse in which the word occurs.

The Diacritical Marks given are those found in the latest edition of Webster's International Dictionary.

EXPLANATION OF MARKS.

A Dash (—) above the vowel denotes the long sound, as in fäte, öve, time, nöte, üse.

A Curve (") above the vowel denotes the short sound, as in ådd, önd, ill, ödd, üp.

A Dot (·) above the vowel a denotes the obscure sound of a in pást, Åbäte, Ameríca.

A Double Dot (··) above the vowel a denotes the broad sound of a in fäther, älma.

A Dot (.) below the vowel u denotes the sound of u in full.

A Double Dot (..) below the vowels a or u denotes the sound of a in ball and u in ryde.

ä sounds like e in däpänd.

å " " o in präpöee.

ä " " a in final.

eh " " k.

ë " " z.

g is soft as in gem.

g is hard as in get.

Äjdädu'mö, the red squirrel.

Ähdeek', the reindeer.

Ähktsö'wIn, fever.

Ähmeeek', the King of Beavers.

Äb'mö, the bee.

Algö'quin (Älgön'kIn), Ojibway.

Ännëmee'kee, the thunder.

Äpdk'wg, a bulrush.

Bäim-wg/wg, sound of the thunder.

Bämäh'gut, the grape-vine.

Bö'nä, the pheasant.

Big Sea Water, Lake Superior.

Bükodä'wIn, famine.

Cämän'chëg, an Indian tribe.

Cheemägun', a birch canoe.

Chätsöwälk', the plover.

Chäbä'wöö, a musician; friend of Hia-watha; Ruler in the Land of Spirits.

Däc'kah, a name including many tribes of the Northwest; doubtless here means the modern Sioux (Soo).

Däh'n'dä, the bullfrog.

Dúsh-kwō-nē-shē (or Kwō-nē-shē), the dragon-fly.	Mēdū'mīn, the art of healing.
Ē'sā, shame upon you.	Meemah'gā, the blueberry.
Ēcōmā'tā, a river in Northern Michigan.	Mēgīsōg'wōn, the great Pearl-Feather, a magician, and the Manitou of Wealth.
Ēwā-yēw', lullaby.	Mēshīng'wā, a pipe-bearer.
Ghee'sīg (geo'sīg), the sun.	Mīnjōkāh'wīn, Hiawatha's mittens.
Ģīt'chē Gū'mee, the Big - Sea - Water, Lake Superior.	Mīnnēhā'hā, Laughing Water; a waterfall on a stream running into the Mississippi between Fort Snelling and the Falls of St. Anthony.
Ģīt'chē Mān'ītō, the Great Spirit; the Master of Life.	Mīnnēhā'hā, Laughing Water; wife of Hiawatha.
Gūahkēwāgū, the darkness.	Mīnnē-wg'wā, a pleasant sound as of the wind in the trees.
Hi-au-hā' (hi-ō-hā').	Mīshē-Mō'kwā, the Great Bear.
Hiawa'tha (hō-ā-wā'thā), the Wine Man; the Teacher; son of Mudjekeewis, the West-Wind, and Wenonah, daughter of Nokomis.	Mīshē-Nah'mā, the Great Sturgeon, King of Fishes.
Hū'rōng, an Indian tribe.	Mīskōdē', the Spring-Beauty, the Claytonia Virginica.
In'goo (ō-ō'goo), a great boaster and story-teller.	Mītchē Mān'ītō, the Spirit of Evil.
Īnīn'wīg, men, or pawns in the Game of the Bowl.	Mōndā'mīn, Indian corn.
Īnhkoodah', fire; a comet.	Moon of Bright Nights, April.
Jee'bī, a ghost, a spirit.	Moon of Leaves, May.
Jōss'ākeed, a prophet.	Moon of Strawberries, June.
Kā'bēytin, the West-Wind.	Moon of the Falling Leaves, September.
Kābōnōk'kā, the North-Wind.	Moon of Snow-shoes, November.
Kāgh, the hedgehog.	Mūdījēkē'wīs, the West-Wind, father of Hiawatha.
Kw'gō, do not.	Mūdwāy'-ash'kā, the sound of waves on a shore.
Kahgahgee', the raven.	Mūshkōdā'sā, the grouse.
Kāw, no.	Mū's'kōdāy, the meadow.
Kāween', no indeed.	Nāgōw Wūdj'ō, the Sand Dunes of Lake Superior.
Kāyōhk', the sea-gull.	Nah'mā, the sturgeon.
Kee'gō, a fish.	Nahmā-wdāk', spearmint.
Keewā'yīn, the Northwest-Wind, the Home-Wind.	Nāwādī'hā, the singer.
Kēnā'beek, a serpent.	Nee-bā-nāw'bāigs, water-spirits.
Keneu' (kēn-ū'), a great war-eagle.	Nēnēmoo'shā, sweetheart.
Kēnō'zhā, the pickerel.	Nēpāh'wīn, sleep.
Kō'kō-kō'hō, the owl.	Nōkō'mīs, a grandmother; mother of Wenonah.
Kūntāssoo', the Game of Plum-stones.	Nō'sā, my father.
Kwā'sīnd, the Strong Man.	Nush'kā, look! look!
Kwō-nē-shē (or Dúsh-kwō-nē-shē), the dragon-fly.	Ōdah'mīn, the strawberry.
Mahnabō'zee, the swan.	Ōjeeg', the Summer-Maker.
Mahng, the loon.	Ōjib'wāyīs, an Indian tribe, located on the southern shore of Lake Superior.
Mahn-gō-tāy'see, loon-hearted, brave.	Ōkāhāh'wīs, the fresh-water herring.
Mahnōmō'nee, wild rice.	Ōmō'mē, the pigeon.
Mā'mā, the woodpecker.	Ōnā'gōn, a bowl.
Mān'dāng, an Indian tribe.	Ōnāwāy', awake.
Mān'ītō, Guardian Spirit.	
Māskēnō'zhā, the pike.	
Mēdā, a medicine man.	

Óp'chee, the robin.	Shh-shph'-gah, the blue heron.
Óss'ó, Son of the Evening Star.	Soan - go - ta/ha (sōn - gō - tā/hā), strong - hearted.
Ówái'sh, the bluebird.	Syb'bók'ishé, the spider.
Óweenee', wife of Osseo.	Sugge'ma (sū-jō'mā), the mosquito.
Ózawé/beek, a round piece of brass or copper in the Game of the Bowl.	Ták'áréck, the larch tree.
Pahpík-kee'ná, the grasshopper.	Táquám'ágw, a river in Northeastern Michigan.
Painmosaid' (pi-mō-séid'), a thief of corn-fields.	Táwéé'n'thá, Vale of, in Albany County, New York; now called Norman's Kill.
Pau'gúk, Death.	Tó'tóm, family coat-of-arms.
Pau'Pík-kee'wí, the handsome Yenadizze, the Storm Fool.	Ugh, yea.
Pauwá'ting, Sault Sainte Marie.	Ügudwah', the sun-fish.
Pé'bóán, Winter.	Unktáhee', the God of Water.
Pém'icán, meat of the deer or buffalo dried and pounded.	Wábó'só, the rabbit; the North.
Péshékee, the bison.	Wábó'nó, a magician; a juggler.
Píahnékp'h, the brant.	Wábó'nó-wíak, yarrow.
Pón'ómáh, the land of the Hereafter.	Wá'bín, the East-Wind.
Púgás'ing', Game of the Bowl.	Wá'bun Án'núng, the Star of the East, the Morning Star.
Púggáw'úgú, a war club.	Wá'gem'ín, the thief of cornfields.
Púk'wá'ná, the smoke of the Peace-Pipe.	Wáhón'wín, a cry of lamentation.
Púk-wúdj'íeg, little wild men of the woods; pygmies.	Wáh-wáh-táy'see, the fire-fly.
Sah-sáh-jé'wíin, rapids.	Wá'm'púm, beads of shell.
Sah'wá, the perch.	Wáubéw'yón, a white skin wrapper.
Sébów'íah'á, a brook.	Wá'wá, the wild goose.
Ségwíin', Spring.	Waw'beek, a rock.
Shá'dá, the pelican.	Waw-bé-wá/wá, the white goose.
Shahb'óm'ín, the gooseberry.	Wáwónáis'sá, the whippoorwill.
Shah-Shah, long ago.	Wáy-há-wáy'.
Shaug'ódá'yá, a coward.	Wáy-mílk-kwá'ná, the caterpillar.
Shawgáshée', the craw-fish.	Wáywá'simó, the lightning.
Sháw'óndá'see, the South-Wind.	Wén'díg'óeg, giants.
Sháw-sháw, the swallow.	Wén'ónáh, Hiawatha's mother, daughter of Nokomis.
Shésh'óbwíg, ducks; pieces in the Game of the Bowl.	Wyó'm'ing, in Northern Pennsylvania, the scene of a terrible massacre in 1778.
Shíñ'géb'íá, the diver, or grebe.	YéndáIs'zé, an idler and gambler, an Indian dandy.
Shó'ahóni'ng, an Indian tribe.	
Shówáin'néméshíñ, pity me.	

CRAIGIE HOUSE, CAMBRIDGE,
November 12, 1897.

Messrs. HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co.:

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